

# *American Cutting Horse Association*

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### **Mission Statement:**

## *American Cutting Horse Association*

In continuance of the legend of the cutting horse, the American Cutting Horse Association strives to promote cutting contests as a sport and encourages individuals, families, companies and groups to become involved in breeding, training, and exhibiting cutting horses in the contest arena.

By the establishment of rules of conduct for cutting horse contests and the keeping of completed records of these contests, the ACHA seeks to promote and regulate the showing of cutting horses.

ACHA membership consists of people of diverse talents and backgrounds and as an association encourages their grassroots participation in order to achieve these goals.

### **About this Rule Book:**

The Rules contained herein have been considered and approved by the Board of Directors of the American Cutting Horse Association. These Rules will be strictly adhered to and enforced by the Executive Board, Board of Directors and Staff of the ACHA. In determining whether violations of the Rules have occurred, the Executive Board, Board of Directors or members of any committee assisting in such determination may consider, but are not bound by, prior determinations and interpretations of the Rules by the Executive Board, Board of Directors or any committee.

*Please notice all new rule changes / additions / clarifications in italics.*

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## **Standing Rules Section I General**

- Rule 1.** In as much as the American Cutting Horse Association (ACHA) has for its basic purposes the public exhibition and promotion of the cutting horse, it is hereby established that all contests conducted by an affiliate of the ACHA must first be approved by the ACHA before they become sanctioned ACHA shows.
- 1 A. ACHA approved contests are restricted to ACHA members only. The only exception will be ACHA approved shows held jointly with other organizations or associations (as provided for in Rule 1 C.) whose members may not be members of the ACHA.
- 1 B. All owners and riders must be members in good standing with the ACHA to compete in an approved show. In the event that a person competes in an ACHA approved contest and is not a current ACHA member, said person may be fined in the amount of \$50.00. Failure to pay the assessed fine will be cause for denial of membership. In addition, a \$50.00 fine (per occurrence) will be assessed any show management that allows an entry to show without the current required membership. The foregoing to be interpreted and enforced in conjunction with Rule 8 A.
- 1 C. The ACHA may, within its discretion, approve shows sponsored or conducted by a non-affiliate or conducted jointly by the ACHA with other organizations or associations.
- Rule 2.** Any individual or affiliate conducting a cutting horse

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contest sanctioned by the ACHA must follow the Standing Rules of the ACHA, unless modified in conjunction with contests held jointly with other organizations or associations.

- 2 A. All references hereinafter contained providing for compliance with the standing rules of the ACHA shall be enforced with the understanding that exceptions or modifications may be approved by the Board of Directors in connection with contests held in conjunction with other organizations or associations.
- 2 B. In the event that a particular situation arises which is not addressed or covered by a standing rule(s) of the ACHA, The Executive Board of Directors shall be allowed to refer to the rules of any other equine association for guidance in resolving the matter. However, the rules of the ACHA shall supersede the rules of all other associations whether said rules are in concert or conflict with the Standing Rules of the ACHA.
- 2 C. For the purpose of definition, a member's last recorded address shall include an email address, and an email address shall be accepted as an official address.

**Rule 3.** All registered horses must be shown under the name assigned to the respective horse by their breed associations and all unregistered horses must be shown under the name designated to the respective horse at any and all contests approved by the ACHA.

- 3. A. ACHA will allow the showing of cloned horses and their offspring. Their winnings will count in the standings.

**Rule 4.** The term "Show Management" as used herein is the organization or individual acting as sponsor of a cutting

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horse contest for which said organization or individual sought and received the approval of the ACHA to conduct the same.

- Rule 5.** Show Management may take any actions necessary which it feels are in the best interest of the show, in compliance with ACHA Standing Rules. In the event that a member feels that Show Management has not acted in the best interest of the show or has violated ACHA Standing Rules, the member may file a protest with the ACHA Board of Directors.

### **Section II Membership**

- Rule 6.** Membership in the ACHA is a privilege, not a right, application for which shall be made on forms and by fees and procedures prescribed from time to time by the ACHA. Membership, or application thereof, may be cancelled or denied by the Executive Board or Board of Directors for any cause detrimental to the interest of the ACHA, its programs and policies, or harmonious relationship of its members as determined by the Executive Board or Board of Directors. Membership cancellation or application denial proceedings under this rule shall provide for prior notice and hearing. Any person whose membership is cancelled or denied may request a hearing before the Board of Directors within ten (10) days of receiving notice that membership in the ACHA has been cancelled or denied. Such cancellation or denial becomes final unless the ACHA receives such request within the time period. The effect of membership cancellation or denial may be denial of privileges, including show privileges, of the ACHA. A suspended member is prohibited from entering the warm up area or the contest arena, either

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on foot or on horseback. Every member, by joining the ACHA, or non-member, by participating in ACHA approved events, does hereby agree:

- 6 A. If unsuccessful in an attempt to overturn ACHA decisions, actions, rules or regulations, to reimburse the ACHA for reasonable legal fees, court costs and other expenses in defense of such suit; and
- 6 B. If legal action is undertaken against the ACHA, whether in law or equity, such action must be taken in courts located in Washington County, Texas.

**Rule 7.** Any individual, firm, partnership, corporation, limited liability company, limited partnership, trust or any other legal entity organized or approved by the State of Texas, or organization of good character and reputation (collectively “Entity”) interested in cutting horses may become a member of the ACHA by applying to the ACHA and paying the required fees. To be eligible for any ACHA premium awards or prizes, both owners and riders must be current ACHA members in good standing. In the event of membership application of an Entity, one (1) person shall be named as its voting member at the time of membership application. Changes in the name of such voting member shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary by the Entity.

**Rule 8.** Membership shall be in three categories: Annual Membership, Affiliate Membership and Life Membership. Membership in the ACHA is non-transferable.

- 8 A. **Annual Membership:** An annual fee of \$50 shall be paid for each annual membership; said fee to become due on *January 1* and to be considered delinquent if not received within thirty (30) days from date of invoice addressed

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to any prior or new member at the address shown on the membership records of the ACHA or information which the ACHA may (but not obligated to) have obtained from any affiliate or other source. Annual membership shall cover the holder, his or her spouse and minor children under twenty-one (21) years of age, in the same household, on January 1 of the year in which the membership is paid. In the event the annual membership is for a single minor child under twenty-one (21) years of age with no other member residing in the same household, the annual fee shall be \$25.00. Each annual membership in good standing shall have one (1) vote. In all voting matters, all ballots returned to the ACHA office by the stated deadline shall be tallied by at least two members of the Executive Board who are not on the ballot. In the event that there are not two members of the Executive Board excluded on the ballot, then an alternate(s) from the Board of Directors who is excluded on the ballot, may be named by the President. Alternatively, the President may, at his discretion, select a CPA firm to tally the ballots.

- 8 B. **Affiliate Membership:** Organizations consisting of at least ten (10) members who are also ACHA members in good standing and interested in cutting horses may be designated as Affiliates of the American Cutting Horse Association upon acceptance of their application and payment of an annual fee of \$50.00, said fee to become due on January 1. Affiliate memberships may be denied or cancelled at any time by the Board of Directors.
- 8 C. **Requirements for Affiliation:** In order to retain the designation of ACHA Affiliate, each affiliated organization must:
1. Pay its annual fee within thirty (30) days of notice.
  2. Provide the ACHA with a copy of its current

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- Constitution and Bylaws no later than January 31<sup>st</sup> of each calendar year or certification that there have been no changes or modifications to those on file with the ACHA. The ACHA Board may disapprove an Affiliate's Bylaws in those instances where they conflict with the Bylaws of the ACHA or there is such a significant departure from the norms and standards of membership organizations, so as to disrupt the harmonious relationship of its members and interferes with the accomplishment of the Mission Statement of the ACHA.
3. Provide the ACHA with a complete list of its members, including addresses, within thirty (30) days notice and monthly thereafter as additional memberships are obtained.
  4. Provide the ACHA with the following, which must be received by the ACHA office within twelve (12) days of the closing date of a show:
    - a. Six percent (6%) fee deducted from the total entry fees paid in all approved contests.
    - b. Five dollars (\$5.00) per horse shown in all approved contests.
    - c. Completed Show Results.
    - d. Completed and signed Judges Cards for each ACHA approved contest held.
  5. Conduct its affairs in compliance with the Constitution and Bylaws and the Standing Rules of this Association, including, but not limited to:
    - a. The annual election of officers and directors, with election results forwarded to the ACHA within thirty (30) days of the election. Any changes in officers or composition of the directors, during the year must be accompanied by notice to the ACHA.
    - b. The holding of annual membership and directors meetings.



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- c. Any affiliate found not in compliance with all sections of this rule on January 31 of each year or within thirty (30) days notice from the ACHA of any violation or non-compliance with the rules of the ACHA may be denied privileges or membership until all of the above rules have been satisfied.
  - d. Any officer or director must be a member of both the ACHA and the affiliate to which they are elected.
6. Provide for fiscal year January 1<sup>ST</sup> through December 31st. Each affiliate through its officers, shall require its show management to provide full financial disclosure, including all receipts and disbursements, in such format and within a time frame in order that the affiliate office of treasurer or president can provide to the affiliate members and the ACHA a complete statement of revenues and expenses in connection with all events and activities of the affiliate. The affiliate treasurer or president shall provide the statement of revenues and expenses to the ACHA prior to *January 31<sup>st</sup>*, of each calendar year and shall make the statement of revenues and expenses available to each affiliate member without any additional charges, efforts or requirements on the part of the affiliate member.
7. A distinction is made between the office of secretary of the affiliate and the show secretary. The show secretary of an affiliate is an employee of the affiliate and serves at the direction of the Board of Directors. The show secretary of an affiliate may not be a member of the Board and does not have voting rights in connection with decisions made by the Board.
  - a. Show secretaries and show management personnel must be members of the ACHA.

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8. An existing affiliate must conduct a minimum of *four (4)* approved contests during each point year; except that, a new affiliate must conduct a minimum of three (3) approved contests during their first point year and thereafter meet the requirement of *four (4)* approved shows during each subsequent point year.
9. *New Affiliate Incentive Rule: After a new affiliate or producer is approved and conducts the required number of shows (3 shows) during their first point year, they will receive a rebate of 50% of their six percent (6%) fee deducted from the total entry fees paid in their first three (3) shows. In the new affiliate or producer's second point year, after completing the required number of show (four (4)shows), they will receive a rebate of fifty percent (50%) of their six percent (6%) fee deducted from the total entry fees paid in their first two (2) shows of their second point year.*

- 8 D. **Life Membership:** Any qualified individual, firm or partnership may become a life member of the ACHA by payment of a Life Membership fee of \$500.00. At the time of purchase, the designated owner will be specified, and no part is transferable. No annual fees are required. Life Memberships are non-transferable but shall cover the holder, his or her spouse and minor children under twenty-one (21) years of age, in the same household on *January 1* each year. Each Life Membership in good standing shall have one (1) vote.

### **Section III Approved Contests**

- Rule 9.** To be ACHA approved, a signed Show Application form must be received in the ACHA office no later than the first (1<sup>st</sup>) day of the month preceding the month during

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which the show is held, or posted on the website at least thirty (30) days prior to the show.. If Show Management subsequently determines that any change is necessary, Show Management must request and obtain written approval of the change from the ACHA. Any approved change concerning an approved show, including but not limited to added money, entry fees, payout schedule, office charges, dates, location or start time of a contest, must appear on the website at least 15 days prior to the scheduled event. After the change has been approved by the ACHA, if the ACHA determines that written notification (other than appearing on the website) must be provided to its membership, written notification of the change must be mailed by the ACHA Secretary to the entire ACHA Membership fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled event. The affiliate must reimburse the ACHA within twenty (20) days after the date of billing, reflecting postage, printing, stationary, or any other related costs.

9 A. Affiliates holding shows which are located within 100 miles of each other on the same date are subject to approval by the Board of Directors.

**Rule 10.** A show that is approved by the ACHA must comply with all ACHA Standing Rules, or as may be modified pursuant to Rule 1 C.

**Rule 11.** All judges for ACHA approved shows must be selected from the ACHA Approved Judges List or the NCHA Approved Judge's List All Judges for ACHA approved shows must be current ACHA members. It is the responsibility of the Show Secretary to enforce this rule or collect membership dues. Any ACHA member not currently on the ACHA Approved Judges List who has won \$10,000 in cutting contests excluding aged events may request an ACHA Judge Application form from the

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ACHA office. Once the completed ACHA Judge Application is received by the ACHA office, it will be forwarded to the Judges Committee for review. The individual's name will be added to the ACHA Approved Judges List upon approval of the Judges Committee, subject only to ultimate review by the Executive Board or Board of Directors.

**Rule 12.** When a Show Application is submitted for show approval by a current ACHA affiliate, show approval will be considered for that particular show, provided: (1) The show is directly sponsored or conducted by the affiliate requesting show approval; (2) The added money does not exceed \$300.00 in any one class, unless specifically approved by the Board of Directors or Executive Board.

12 A. Early applications are encouraged and consideration will be given to the earliest applications received by the ACHA office.

**Rule 13.** Show Management of all ACHA approved contests must use official Judges Cards provided by the ACHA and shall post same in a conspicuous space immediately following each class and go-round. Show Management must forward Judges Cards to the ACHA along with completed ACHA Show Results and fees within twelve (12) days of the closing date of the shows.

13 A. In the event ACHA Show Results are not received in the ACHA office within twelve (12) days of the closing date of the show, the ACHA affiliate which sponsored the show will be fined a \$250.00 late charge, unless waived by the ACHA Board of Directors upon determining just cause for late submittal of show results. Failure by an affiliate to pay the assessed fine will be cause for cancellation of future ACHA approved shows.

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**Rule 14.** The ACHA reserves the right to deny approval or cancel the approval of a show which it deems not to be in the best interest of the Association.

**Rule 15.** All ACHA approved contests must be videoed. The video cost may be passed on to the contestants. Videos must be retained by the Show Management or video service provider for not less than thirty (30) days after the closing date of the contest and shall be available to the ACHA upon request at no cost to the ACHA. ACHA will only accept DVDs.

**Rule 16.** All members of the ACHA are responsible for determining class eligibility for themselves and all horses they own or exhibit as determined by the combined records of *the ACHA and the NCHA* on the first day of the current ACHA point year. In order to determine eligibility, members must add total earnings from *the ACHA and the NCHA*. Earnings won at any ACHA American Championship will be included in determining class eligibility for the point year immediately following any American Championships. *Combined ACHA and NCHA* aged event earnings are included in determining rider eligibility, but are NOT included in determining horse eligibility. All earnings as of *January 1*, must be combined to determine eligibility.

16 A. *Upon determining that a horse or rider has won money in a class for which the horse or rider is ineligible, the ACHA records will be adjusted to remove the ineligible horse or rider, with the ineligible earnings to be reallocated by the affiliate / show producer (s) involved among the remaining class participants to establish the correct class standings. The rider must return all ineligible earnings and prizes. All entry fees will be forfeited. In*

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*addition, any member in violation of this rule shall also be subject to the disciplinary procedures of Rule 40.*

- 16 B. To be eligible for any ACHA earnings or awards, both owners and riders must be current ACHA members in good standing.
- 16 C. There are seventeen (17) classifications of ACHA approved contests:

**(a) Those classes that are based on the eligibility of the horse, excluding aged events:**

1. **ACHA Open Cutting Horse Class:**  
Open to any horse, regardless of breed, age, sex, color, conformation, appearance, or previous performance. Horses are to be judged on performance only. Earnings toward American Champion, Reserve American Champion, and Top Ten Open Horse will be counted only from ACHA approved classes bearing the title ACHA Open Cutting Horse Class. Earnings will accumulate only from shows that comply with all Standing Rules and, in addition, have an added purse of at least \$200.00. A Non-Professional may exhibit a horse in the Open Class provided the horse is owned by the Non-Professional, the Non-Professional's spouse, father, mother, son, daughter or minor sibling. The Non-Professional rider must pay all entry fees and charges in relation to the entry and must not receive direct or indirect remuneration. A rider may ride two (2) horses in the Open class.
2. **ACHA \$15,000 Limit Cutting Horse Class:**  
Open to all horses having lifetime earnings of \$15,000

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or less as determined by the combined records of *the ACHA and the NCHA* on the first day of the current ACHA point year. Limited age contest money won shall not be included in determining a horse's lifetime earnings. Earnings toward American Champion, Reserve American Champion, and Top Ten *\$15,000 Limit Horse* will be counted only from ACHA approved classes bearing the title ACHA *\$15,000 Limit Cutting Horse Class*. Earnings for this title will accumulate only from shows that comply with all Standing Rules and, in addition, the class is scheduled with an accompanying Open Cutting Horse Class approved by the ACHA. Riders may elect to ride two (2) eligible horses in this class.

- 3. ACHA \$3,000 Novice Cutting Horse Class:**  
Open to all horses having lifetime earnings of \$3,000 or less as determined by the combined records of *the ACHA and the NCHA* on the first day of the current ACHA point year. Limited age contest money won shall not be included in determining a horse's lifetime earnings. Earnings toward American Champion, Reserve American Champion, and Top Ten \$3,000 Novice Cutting Horse will be counted only from ACHA approved classes bearing the title ACHA \$3,000 Novice Cutting Horse Class. Earnings for this title will accumulate only from shows that comply with all Standing Rules and, in addition, the class is scheduled with an accompanying Open Cutting Horse Class approved by the ACHA. Riders may elect to ride two (2) eligible horses in this class.
- 4. ACHA \$15,000 Novice Horse/Non-Professional Cutting Horse Class:**  
Open to all horses having lifetime earnings of \$15,000

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or less as determined by the combined records of *the ACHA and the NCHA* on the first day of the current ACHA point year and open to all ACHA Non-Professionals. Limited age contest money won shall not be included in determining a horse's lifetime earnings. Earnings toward American Champion, Reserve American Champion, and Top Ten \$15,000 Novice Horse/Non-Professional will be counted only from ACHA approved classes bearing the title ACHA \$15,000 Novice Horse/Non-Professional Cutting Horse Class. Earnings for this title will accumulate only from shows that comply with all Standing Rules and, in addition, the class is scheduled with an accompanying Open or Non-Professional Cutting Horse Class approved by the ACHA. Riders may elect to ride two (2) eligible horses in this class, both of which must be owned by the contestant or the contestant's spouses or minor child (under 21 years of age). Rules set forth in Section III, Rule 16 a, b, c, d, and e apply.

### **(b) Those classes that are based on the eligibility of the rider, including aged events:**

#### **5. ACHA Non-Professional Cutting Horse Class:**

Open to all ACHA Non-Professionals. Earnings toward American Champion, Reserve American Champion, and Top Ten Non-Professional will be counted only from ACHA approved classes bearing the title ACHA Non-Professional Cutting Horse Class. Earnings toward this title will accumulate only from shows that comply with all Standing Rules and, in addition, have an added purse of at least \$200.00. Participants in any ACHA Non-Professional



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Cutting Horse Class must comply with all Non-Professional Rules.

**6. ACHA \$50,000 Non-Professional Cutting Horse Class:**

Open to all ACHA Non-Professionals with total lifetime earnings of \$50,000 or less as determined by the combined records of *the ACHA and the NCHA* on the first day of the current ACHA point year. Limited age contest money shall be included in determining a rider's lifetime earnings. Earnings toward American Champion, Reserve American Champion, and Top Ten \$50,000 Non-Professional will be counted only from ACHA approved classes bearing the title ACHA \$50,000 Non-Professional Cutting Horse Class. Earnings for this title will accumulate only from shows that comply with all Standing Rules and, in addition, have an added purse of at least \$200 with ten (10) or more entries or \$100 with nine (9) or fewer. This minimum added purse required by the ACHA will be determined by the number of horses in the original draw. This class must be scheduled with an accompanying Non-Professional Cutting Horse Class approved by the ACHA. Rules set forth in Section III, Rule 16. a, b, c, and d apply.

**7. ACHA \$20,000 Non-Professional Cutting Horse Class:**

Open to all ACHA Non-Professionals with lifetime earnings of \$20,000 or less as determined by the combined records of *the ACHA and the NCHA* on the first day of the current ACHA point year. Limited age contest money won shall be included in determining a rider's lifetime earnings. Earnings toward

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American Champion, Reserve American Champion, and Top Ten \$20,000 Non-Professional will be counted only from ACHA approved classes bearing the title ACHA \$20,000 Non-Professional Cutting Horse Class. Earnings for this title will accumulate only from shows that comply with all Standing Rules and, in addition, the class is scheduled with an accompanying Non-Professional Cutting Horse Class approved by the ACHA. Rules set forth in Section III, Rule 16, a, b, c, d, and e apply.

### **8. \$2,500 Novice Rider Cutting Horse Class:**

Open to all riders having lifetime earnings of \$2,500 or less as determined by the combined records of *the ACHA and the NCHA* on the first day of the current ACHA point year. Limited age contest money won shall be included in determining a rider's lifetime earnings. A contestant may ride any horse. Earnings toward American Champion, Reserve American Champion, and Top Ten \$2,500 Novice Rider will be counted only from ACHA approved classes bearing the title ACHA \$2,500 Novice Rider Cutting Horse Class. Earnings for this title will accumulate only from ACHA approved shows that comply with all Standing Rules and, in addition, the contest is scheduled with an accompanying Non-Professional Cutting Horse Class approved by the ACHA. Rules set forth in Section III, Rule 16 a, b, c, d, and e apply in this class.

### **9. ACHA \$1000 Novice Rider Cutting Horse Class:**

Open to all riders having lifetime earnings of \$1000 or less as determined by the combined records of *the ACHA and the NCHA* on the first day of the current ACHA point year. Limited age contest money won shall be included in determining a rider's lifetime

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earnings. A contestant may ride any horse. Earnings toward American Champion, Reserve American Champion, and Top Ten \$1000 Novice Rider will be counted only from ACHA approved classes bearing the title ACHA \$1000 Novice Rider Cutting Horse Class. Earnings for this title will accumulate only from ACHA approved shows that comply with all Standing Rules and, in addition, the class is scheduled with an accompanying Non-Professional Cutting Horse Class approved by the ACHA. Rules set forth in Section III, Rule 16. a, b, c, d, and e apply in this class.

### **10. ACHA Youth Cutting Horse Class:**

Open to all members of the ACHA who are eighteen (18) years of age or younger on the first day of the current ACHA point year. The age of a youth on the first day of the current ACHA point year shall be maintained throughout the entire point year. Both Junior and Senior American Champions, Reserve American Champions, and Top Ten Champions will be awarded. Junior Youth are aged thirteen (13) and under on the first day of the current ACHA point year. Senior Youth are aged fourteen (14) through eighteen (18) on the first day of the current ACHA point year. Points won toward the Junior and Senior Youth will be counted only from ACHA approved Youth Cutting Horse Classes. One class may be held bearing the title Youth Cutting Horse Class in which both Junior and Senior Youth compete. *Points will be awarded based on number of entries per age group. Monies will be issued according to standing Rule 20 D.* Points toward the Junior and Senior Youth will be counted only from ACHA approved shows that comply with all Standing Rules.

a. A contestant in an ACHA Youth Cutting Horse

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Class may ride any horse, regardless of a horse's sex, breed, or ownership, unless stallions are prohibited from the contest at the time show approval is requested.

- b. Only youth members of the ACHA shall be eligible to receive any awards offered by the ACHA.
- c. No points shall be awarded in a youth class having less than three (3) entries.
  1. If there is to be one (1) class, undivided, the age group is to be eighteen (18) and under.
  2. If the classes are large, Show Management may elect to divide the Youth Cutting Horse Class into two (2) groups.
  3. If there are to be two (2) age groups, the age division must be thirteen (13) and under for the Junior Youth age group and fourteen (14) through eighteen (18) for the Senior Youth age group.
  4. A record of points earned shall be maintained in the riders name by the ACHA.
  5. At the conclusion of the annual point year, the Junior Youth, having accumulated the greatest number of points in ACHA Youth Cutting Horse Classes, will be named by the ACHA as its American Champion Junior Youth. The Junior Youth Reserve American Champion and Junior Top Ten Champions shall be named as well. At the conclusion of the annual point year, the Senior Youth having accumulated the greatest number of points in ACHA Youth Cutting Horse Classes will be named by the ACHA as its American Champion Senior Youth. The Senior Reserve Champion and Senior Top Ten Champions shall be named as well.

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6. Youth Cutting Horse Class money won in *the ACHA and the NCHA IS* included in determining a youth contestant's lifetime earnings.
7. Married contestants, regardless of age, are ineligible for competition in ACHA Youth Cutting Horse Classes.
8. Points shall be awarded in ACHA approved Youth Cutting Horse Classes based on the number of entries listed below:

<u>Number of Horses:</u>	<u>Place:</u>	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>	<u>4th</u>	<u>5th</u>	<u>6th</u>
<b>1 or 2 horses</b>	<b>Points:</b>	<b>0</b>					
<b>3 horses</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>			
<b>4 horses</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>		
<b>5 horses</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>6 or more horses</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>

In case of identical scores, a tie shall be declared and all places involved will EACH receive the highest number of points allocated to that placing. For example, in a class of six (6) horses, if the highest score of the class is assigned to two horses, six (6) points will be given to each contestant with the next placing contestant receiving four (4) points; or if the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place receive an identical score, each contestant will receive four (4) points with the next placing contestant receiving two (2) points. Under no circumstances, regardless of the number of entries, shall a contestant be awarded more than six (6) points.

- (c) Other classes are:

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### **11. ACHA Senior Non-Professional Cutting Horse Class:**

Open to all ACHA Non-Professionals aged 60 years and older, regardless of lifetime earnings. Earnings toward American Champion, Reserve American Champion and Top Ten Senior Non-Professional will be counted only from ACHA approved classes bearing the title ACHA Senior Non-Professional Cutting Horse Class. Earnings for this title will accumulate only from shows that comply with all standing rules and, in addition, the class is scheduled with an accompanying Non-Professional Cutting Horse Class approved by the ACHA. Participants in any ACHA Senior Non-Professional Cutting Horse Class must comply with all non-professional rules.

### **12. Jackpot Cuttings:**

Affiliates may hold Jackpot Cuttings provided there is no added money and subject to the following additional conditions.:

- a. Money or points earned in Jackpot Cuttings will be considered for lifetime earnings; however, will not be considered for any ACHA awards.
- b. Money or points earned in Jackpot Cuttings will count toward show classification eligibility.  
Example: A contestant whose total winnings include Jackpot Cuttings would not be eligible to show in the \$1000 Novice Rider Cutting Horse Class if the contestant has won in excess of \$1000.00 inclusive of Jackpot Cuttings.
- c. Jackpot Cuttings will qualify contestants for American Championship Show eligibility.
- d. Any current ACHA member in good standing may judge a Jackpot Cutting.
- e. Affiliates conducting Jackpot Cuttings must comply with Rule 8.C.4.

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### **13. 3 Year Old Open Cutting Horse Class**

Open to all 3 year old horses. A horse shall be deemed 3 years old January 1 through December 31 of the calendar year in which the horse actually turns 3 years of age. A photo copy of the registration certificate of registered horses or a notarized statement of age and description by a licensed veterinarian for unregistered horses shall be exhibited to Show Management upon request. A rider may ride an unlimited number of horses in this class. All ACHA Standing Rules shall apply in this class.

### **14. 3 Year Old Non Professional Cutting Horse Class**

Open to all ACHA Non Professionals riding a 3 year old horse. A horse shall be deemed 3 years old January 1 through December 31 of the calendar year in which the horse actually turns 3 years of age. A photo copy of the registration certificate of registered horses or a notarized statement of age and description by a licensed veterinarian for unregistered horses shall be exhibited to Show Management upon request. A rider may ride an unlimited number of horses in this class. All ACHA Standing Rules including all rules regarding Non Professionals shall apply in this class.

### **15. 4 Year Old Open Cutting Horse Class**

Open to all 4 year old horses. A horse shall be deemed 4 years old January 1 through December 31 of the calendar year in which the horse actually turns 4 years of age. A photo copy of the registration certificate of registered horses or a notarized statement of age and description by a licensed veterinarian for unregistered horses shall be exhibited to Show Management upon request. A rider may ride an unlimited number of

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horses in this class. All ACHA Standing Rules shall apply in this class.

### **16. 4 Year Old Non Professional Cutting Horse Class**

Open to all ACHA Non Professionals riding a 4 year old horse. A horse shall be deemed 4 years old January 1 through December 31 of the calendar year in which the horse actually turns 4 years of age. A photo copy of the registrations certificate of registered horses or a notarized statement of age and description by a licensed veterinarian for unregistered horses shall be exhibited to Show Management upon request. A rider may ride an unlimited number of horses in this class. All ACHA Standing Rules including all rules regarding a Non Professional shall apply in this class.

### **17. 5/6 Year Old Open Cutting Horse Class**

Open to all 5/6 year old horses. A horse shall be deemed 5/6 years old January 1 through December 31 of the calendar year in which the horse actually turns 5/6 years of age. A photo copy of the registration certificate of registered horses or a notarized statement of age and description by a licensed veterinarian for unregistered horses shall be exhibited to Show Management upon request. A rider may ride an unlimited number of horses in this class. All ACHA Standing Rules shall apply in this class.

### **18. 5/6 Year Old Non Professional Cutting Horse Class**

Open to all ACHA Non Professionals riding a 5/6 year old horse. A horse shall be deemed 5/6 years old January 1 through December 31 of the calendar year in which the horse actually turns 5/6 years of age. A photo copy of the registration certificate of registered horses or a notarized statement of age and description



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by a licensed veterinarian for unregistered horses shall be exhibited to show management upon request. A rider may ride an unlimited number of horses in this class. All ACHA Standing Rules including all rules regarding non-professionals shall apply in this class.

- 16 D. No horse may be shown twice in the same class on any single day.
- 16 E. Unless a class has three (3) or more horses entered, earnings or points will not be considered for year end ACHA awards. An affiliate may hold a class with fewer than three (3) horses and include earnings or points for affiliate awards or standings.
- 16 F. The Limited Aged Event point year shall be January 1 to December 31, to coincide with the calendar year of the horse's aged event eligibility.
- 16 G. Rules for ACHA Double Judged Events:
- ACHA double- judged events will be comprised of one show wherein two judges independently score each entry.
  - The purpose of the double- judged show will be to allow contestants to potentially earn monies under multiple judges, scoring separately, on one run.
  - Scores under both judges will be posted and announced after any reviews and after the class is complete.
  - There will be one set of points distributed for ACHA standings as described under Annual Awards in the ACHA rulebook. For point distribution, the scores of each judge will be combined for the purpose of allotting said set of points.
  - Double-judged events will be allowed to charge an additional office charge, as well as an additional entry fee. The latter is to be jackpotted at 100%. No additional cattle charges will be

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approved. All monies, including added monies, will be split and paid out equally under each judge.

- Each double judged show will count as one show in accordance with Standing Rules 26A and 26E.
- As with all ACHA contests, earnings toward year-end awards must be accumulated from events in compliance with Rule 16C of ACHA Standing Rules and Bylaws.
- A show producer or affiliate will be allowed to hold four one-day double-judged events each year between October 1 and the following September 1.

**Rule 17.** Any owner who shall permit his horse to be entered or exhibited by an ineligible rider in classes for Non-Professional riders shall be subject to disciplinary action by the Board of Directors.

**Rule 18.** The designated contestant representative shall conduct a binding contestant vote on the number of cattle bunches for the class or on combining classes. Show Management shall then determine how many horses will be worked in each cattle bunch. The decision on the number of cattle bunches and the number of horses per bunch must be made before the draw for working order of horses.

**Rule 19.** Judges must draw for working order of horses in all classes that have any added money. Show Management may elect to designate a contestant not entered in the class involved to draw the working order of horses in those classes with no added money. Any draw *may* be witnessed by the designated contestant representative for the class involved. All draws must be made before each class or go-round. The draw will be conducted by using numbered tokens or balls. A numbered token for each entry shall be placed in a container, and a blind draw shall be conducted by the

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judge or the designated contestant. Random computer draws may be used in classes with no added money.

- 19 A. In the event that a horse which was properly entered is left out of the draw, a complete redraw of the class will not be held. In order to establish a working order for the additional entry, the judge will draw one numbered token from the tokens originally drawn. The additional entry shall work after the entry originally drawn in that position. For example, if the number six (6) is drawn for the additional entry, that additional entry will work as entry six (6) A. The original cattle changes are not affected.
- 19 B. If a horse is drawn twice, the judge shall draw to determine which draw position is to be used. The original cattle changes are not affected.
- 19 C. If a horse is drawn which is not in that class, the entry shall be scratched. The original cattle changes are not affected.

### **Rule 20.** ACHA Fee and Payout Schedule:

- 20 A. In all cutting horse contests approved by the ACHA, six percent (6 %) of the total entry fees paid in a class shall be deducted by Show Management and forwarded to the ACHA office. This deduction shall be sent along with all completed ACHA Show Results and signed Judges Cards to the ACHA office, so as to be received within twelve (12) days of the closing date of the show. (Note: This deduction shall be made from entry fees only and shall not include any portion of added money or other charges or fees.) Affiliates will also remit to the ACHA office a \$5.00 per horse fee based on the number of horses entered at their shows. If ACHA fees, Show Results and Judges Cards are not received within twelve (12) days, Show Management and/or the affiliate which sponsored the

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contest will be fined a \$250.00 late charge, unless waived by the ACHA Board of Directors upon determining just cause for late submittal of show results.

- 20 B. Entry fees and added money will be determined by Show Management. If any charge is to be made other than an entry fee, such as a cattle charge, office charge, handling or stall fee, video or grounds fee, it must be stated and separated from the entry fee.
- 20 C. No deduction, other than as specified above, shall be made by Show Management, an affiliate or sponsor. Failure to comply with this rule will result in show approval being withdrawn.
- 20 D. The number of horses in a class determines the number of monies to be paid. Mandatory payout schedule for all classes is as follows:

<u>No. of Entries</u>	<u>Monies Paid</u>	<u>Percentage Distribution:</u>
1 – 4	1	100
5 – 8	2	60, 40
9 – 12	3	50, 30, 20
13 – 16	4	40, 30, 20, 10
17 – 20	5	30, 25, 20, 15, 10
21 – 24	6	30, 24, 18, 12, 9, 7
25 – 28	7	26, 21, 17, 13, 10, 8, 5
29 – 32	8	25, 20, 15, 12, 10, 8, 6, 4
33 – 36	9	24, 18, 14, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 4
37 – UP	10	22, 16, 13, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4
	11	21, 15, 12, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3
	12	21, 15, 12, 9, 8, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2
	13	21, 15, 12, 9, 8, 7, 6, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 2
	14	21, 15, 12, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 4, 3, 2, 2, 2
	15	20, 15, 12, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 3, 2, 2, 2, 2

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16. 19, 14, 12, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 3, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2
17. 19, 14, 11, 8, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 3, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2
18. 19, 14, 11, 8, 7, 6, 6, 5, 4, 3, 3, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2
19. 19, 14, 11, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 4, 3, 3, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2
20. 19, 14, 11, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 3, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2

- 20 E. ACHA will not recognize any classes with fewer than three (3) horses in order to be an approved ACHA class.

**Rule 21.** Show Management may accept late entries until one-fourth (1/4) of the horses in the class concerned have worked. Any late entries must work last in the first available bunch of cattle. When two (2) late entries arrive simultaneously, a draw will be held and said entries inserted in the next subsequent bunches of cattle with one (1) entry being placed in each bunch. If the number of late entries exceeds the number of cattle bunches, additional late entries will be added to the first available bunch.

Example: 1<sup>st</sup> group – late entry A  
2<sup>nd</sup> group – late entry B  
3<sup>rd</sup> group – late entry C

A 4<sup>th</sup> entry would be added to the first available bunch of cattle.

**Rule 22.** Each horse's scores from all go-rounds will be added together to determine which horses advance to the finals.

**Rule 23.** An exhibitor may enter one (1) or more horses in an ACHA approved show; however, a rider may ride only one (1) horse per class except in the Open Class, \$15,000 *Limit Cutting Horse Class*, \$15,000 Novice Horse/Non-Professional Cutting Horse Class, and the \$3,000 Novice Cutting Horse Class in which a rider may show two (2) eligible horses. *In all aged event classes, a rider may ride an unlimited number of horses.* Each horse must have the same rider throughout any contest with more than one (1)

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go-round or a finals. Under no circumstances can the same horse be shown by more than one (1) rider in any one (1) class at an ACHA approved show.

**Rule 24.** At all ACHA contests, announcers are required to make known the name of each horse and the horse's owner and rider at the time of their performance. The winners are also to be recognized in a similar manner after each class.

**Rule 25.** The time allotted each horse to work is two and one-half (2 ½) minutes; the time will start when a contestant crosses a time line designated by Show Management. If the clock has not been started or if it malfunctions, the Show Secretary or timer shall notify the judge(s). The judge(s) has the sole right to terminate a horse's performance.

25 A. A contestant will be awarded a complete rework if in the judge(s) opinion two and one-half (2 ½) minutes was not allotted for the work or if excessive disturbances had been created by factors other than those created by the Contestant or his/her help and the judge(s) has stopped the time. These factors would include gates coming open, fences falling down, and objects entering or falling in or near the working portion of the arena, but would not apply to cattle scattering through wildness or normal arena activities. Any rework must take place within the bunch of cattle drawn by the contestant and must occur before a change of cattle is executed. At the contestant's option, the rework may occur immediately or as the last work in that bunch of cattle. After a contestant has completed a two and one-half (2 ½) minute work, if in the contestant's opinion, a situation has occurred of sufficient seriousness to warrant a rerun, the contestant may immediately make a request for a rerun to the Contestant's Representative who shall report this fact to Show Management before the next horse is called to work. Show Management shall make

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such facts as are available known to the judge(s) and if the judge(s) agrees that due cause did exist, a rerun may be granted provided the original work was free of a three (3) or a five (5) point (major) penalty prior to the disturbance. Reworks shall not be granted in the event a contestant's equipment breaks during a horse's performance.

### **Section IV American Championships**

**Rule 27.** The American Championships will be held annually in compliance with ACHA Rules established by the Board of Directors. Entry fees, any additional charges, and schedules for the American Championships will be established by the Board of Directors and distributed to ACHA members.

- 26 A. Qualifications for the American Championships in all classes are based on the rider's participation. For any rider to qualify for the American Championships, he or she must be an ACHA member and must meet one of the following criteria:
1. Be in the ACHA Top Ten Year End Standings in the class entered based on the total cumulative earnings/ points from ACHA approved classes, excluding aged events.
  2. Show at least four (4) times in the same ACHA approved class, excluding aged events, held by the same affiliate (existing) conducting a minimum of *four (4)* approved shows during a point year.
  3. *If a new affiliate conducts only three (3) shows during a ride year, the contestant must show in all three (3) shows held by that affiliate.*
  4. Show at least eight (8) times in the same ACHA approved class, excluding aged events, at any approved ACHA cutting regardless of affiliate.

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5. A rider qualified for the American Championships may qualify to show in additional classes by showing one (1) time in an approved class held by any ACHA affiliate providing the horse and rider are eligible for that class. No rider may enter the American Championships on a horse that he or she has not shown at least one (1) time during that point year. The rider must have shown that horse at least one (1) time in every class entered at the American Championships. A rider may enter any horse that he or she has shown at least one (1) time in the specific class entered at the American Championships. For purposes of Rule 26 A, the term “show” or “shown” means that the contestant must cross the time line and enter the herd.
  6. Limited Aged Events: No qualifications necessary. Riders in the Open and Non Professional are allowed to show an unlimited number of horses. Limited Aged Events are not considered qualifying classes.
- 26 B. No entry fees will be refunded after the draw. A horse may be substituted after the draw provided a written veterinarian’s release is presented to the ACHA prior to the start of the first horse’s work in the class and provided the rider is qualified to ride the substitute horse in accordance with Standing Rule 26 A.
- 26 C. Late entries will be allowed after the draw upon receipt of full entry fees plus one hundred dollars (\$100.00) late penalty. No late entries will be accepted after 8:00 AM on the day of the first round of the class entered.
- 26 D. American Championships qualifying and earnings/points will begin on *January 1 of each year and run through December 31.*



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- 26 E. An affiliate must conduct a minimum of *four (4)* ACHA approved contests during an ACHA point year for that affiliate's contests of that class to be recognized as qualifying contests for the American Championships. No entry will be qualified for the American Championships by showing less than four (4) times in any one class in contests held by the same affiliate, except as covered by Rule 26 A. .
- 26 F. Earnings won at any American Championships will be counted toward contestants' and horses' total lifetime earnings. These earnings will be included in determining contest eligibility for the point year immediately following any American Championships.

### **Section V Judges**

- Rule 27.** Designation as an ACHA approved judge is a privilege, not a right bestowed by the Judge's Committee, according to procedures formulated by it, to individuals having shown cutting expertise and good character. An individual's conduct as a member, contestant and/or judge must be exemplary. A judge's conduct and ability is subject to the continual review of the Judge's Committee. Designation as a judge is revocable by the Judge's Committee with or without notice and formal hearing, subject only to the ultimate review by the Board of Directors.
- 27 A. Any judge that has a valid complaint lodged against him may be put on probation by the judge's committee for a period in which said judge is to complete four consecutive entire shows without any valid complaints being made, at which time the judge's committee shall remove the judge from probation. If said judge has another valid complaint during the probation period, the judge's committee will re-

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view and may revoke the judges card immediately. The judge's committee shall adopt procedures for the implementation of Rule 27 A., such procedures to be approved by the Board of Directors. The Judge's Committee has the power to control, monitor, advise or counsel judges. Any recommendation for disciplinary action shall be put in writing to the Board of Directors for their approval.

**Rule 28.** Individuals over the age of twenty-one (21) may be designated as an ACHA Judge upon approval by the Judge's Committee, subject only to the ultimate review by the Executive Board or Board of Directors.

28A. No individual will be approved as a judge who has a record of suspension, probation or other disciplinary action with the ACHA for the two (2) year period immediately preceding the date a Judge's Application is received by the ACHA office.

28 B. No person appearing on the published ACHA, NCHA, American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA), or American Paint Horse Association (APHA) suspended lists shall be permitted to judge an ACHA approved cutting horse contest.

28 C. All of the foregoing requirements being in addition to the condition of Rule 11.

**Rule 29.** Judges in all ACHA approved contests must use official ACHA Judges Cards and sign each card. The following criteria must also be met in regard to judging at any ACHA approved contest.

29 A. Each judge(s) shall indicate penalties assessed in the spaces provided on the Judges Cards. Also, it is manda-

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tory for each judge(s) to fill in “credit” columns on the Judges Cards with the following symbols:

√ **Average; + Above Average; - Below Average**

- 29 B. There must not be any consultation between judges until after Judges Cards are turned in. After the Judges Cards are turned in, there will be no changes made, other than in monitored events approved by the ACHA. In such event all changes must be signed by the Judge.
- 29 C. When two (2) or more individuals are judging a cutting horse contest or go-round and one (1) or more judges cannot complete judging a contest or go-round, the score or scores of the remaining judge(s) who completes the contest or go-round will be the sole basis of computing the contest or go-round results. Each judge must score each horse individually, and if any one (1) of a judge’s scores is counted in a contest or go-round, all of that judge’s scores must be counted except as provided herein.
- 29 D. When two (2) or more individuals are judging a cutting horse contest of more than one (1) go-round and one (1) or more judges becomes unable to continue between the go-rounds or before the finals, the said judge(s) shall be replaced by an alternate judge(s) designated by Show Management.
- 29 E. Where four (4) or more individuals are judging the cutting horse contest, the highest and lowest scores for each horse may be discarded and the accumulated scores of the remaining judges used to compute the contest or go-round results. This rule shall also apply to finals.
- Rule 30.** A judge may not judge his parents, children, spouse, spouse’s parents, employer, employees or relatives of

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either the judge or his spouse. A judge may not judge anyone who lives in the judge's household. If in the event at least two (2) judges scores are dropped from a contestant's score, Rule 30, 30 A., 30 B., 30 C., and 30 D. do not apply.

- 30 A. Furthermore, a judge may not judge a horse that he has owned, exhibited, trained, managed or sold for direct or indirect remuneration within the sixty (60) day period immediately preceding any ACHA approved contest at which said judge is officiating either in full or in part.
- 30 B. A judge may not judge any rider, or a horse owned by said rider, who has had lessons from said judge or given lessons to said judge within the sixty (60) day period immediately preceding the ACHA approved contest at which said judge is officiating either in full or in part.
- 30 C. A judge may not judge any rider, or the horse of any said rider, who has trained or assisted in training the judge's horse within sixty (60) days preceding any ACHA approved contest at which said judge is officiating either in full or in part.
- 30 D. If such a horse, owner, or rider as specified in Section V, Rule 30 A., 30 B., or 30 C. is entered in a class, the entry fee shall be refunded and the entry not shown. A judge may be suspended from the Approved Judges List for an infraction of this rule.

**Rule 31.** Show Management shall report to the ACHA office any judge who is absent from his duties after accepting an assignment. The judge shall be removed from the ACHA Approved Judges List until the judge submits a written statement to the ACHA office explaining his absence and requesting reinstatement to the ACHA Approved Judges List. A judge will be reinstated to the ACHA Approved

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Judges List only after the Executive Board or Board of Directors determines that a judge's absence was for just cause.

**Rule 32.** Complaints and/or protests regarding an ACHA judge may be made by current ACHA members only.

**Rule 33.** Any contestant may protest a judge's decision regarding a class in which the contestant participated, if the alleged protest involves a major penalty of three (3) points or more, or, three (3) or more (1) point penalties in the same run by submitting to the ACHA Judge's Committee a written statement requesting a review of a judge's performance. Said statement must be filed (postmarked, faxed, or hand delivered) within seven (7) days of the closing date of the show involved and must be accompanied by a personal check, money order, or cashier's check in the amount of fifty dollars (\$50.00) made payable to the American Cutting Horse Association. If after review by the Judge's Committee, the protest is found to be valid, the fee will be returned to the contestant. When protests are not found to be valid, the fee will be retained by the ACHA.

33 A. In the event an ACHA approved judge's membership is suspended by the American Cutting Horse Association for any reason, the judge's approved status shall be cancelled and all rights and privileges forfeited until otherwise determined by the ACHA Board of Directors. (See Rule 28 A.)

**Rule 34.** A judge(s) must present in writing any grievance that he/she may have against contestants or Show Management to the ACHA Board of Directors. A complaint by a judge must be filed (postmarked, faxed or hand delivered) within seven (7) days of the alleged violation.

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- Rule 35.** Once an ACHA approved cutting has commenced, Show Management is not authorized to dismiss a judge for any reason relating to the actual performance of his judging responsibilities. Show Management, however, may dismiss a judge for blatant misconduct while on the show grounds, such as using abusive language, consuming alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs immediately prior to or during a contest, etc. A judge may be dismissed for any reason by the ACHA Executive Board or Board of Directors if, in their opinion, it is in the best interest of the ACHA to do so.
- Rule 36.** A judge shall conduct himself in a manner fitting and proper to one afforded the honor of officiating at any ACHA approved contest. Any misconduct on the part of the judge at any ACHA contest, such as consuming alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs immediately prior to or during a contest, the use of abusive language, showing obvious favoritism to, or discrimination against either an individual or a horse performing in a contest, or any misconduct unbecoming a judge, will make him subject to disciplinary action following a complete and impartial hearing before the ACHA Board of Directors or Executive Board regarding an alleged rule violation.
- 36 A. A judge should not appear on the show grounds before the stated time for entries to close except as may be required by Show Management. Judges shall not visit, beyond the exchange of normal greetings, with owners, trainers, exhibitors or agents before the show and shall talk only with representatives of Show Management, until the entire contest or show is completed.
- 36 B. Under no circumstances will a judge be permitted to enter a contest for which said judge is officiating.

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- 36 C. A judge shall not discuss with any contestant previous scores, classes, or related happenings during a show or within thirty (30) days after a contest at which the judge has officiated. A judge shall not intimidate or attempt to intimidate a contestant. The penalty for violating this rule will be a six (6) months suspension from the ACHA.

### **Section VI Contestants**

**Rule 37.** There are four classifications of ACHA Contestants:

- 37 A. **Open Rider:** This classification is open to anyone, Professional or Non-Professional.
- 37 B. **Professional Rider:** Any person who has shown, trained or assisted in training a cutting horse or cutting horse rider for direct or indirect remuneration shall be considered a Professional by the ACHA.
- 37 C. **Non-Professional Rider:** A Non-Professional in the ACHA is a person who has not received direct or indirect remuneration or other consideration for training, showing or assisting in the training of a cutting horse or cutting horse rider. This Association does not consider as Professional, cutting horse trainers' spouses who do not teach cutting horse riders or train cutting horses on cattle. Employees of a cutting horse training operation may be considered Non-Professionals by this Association provided they do not teach cutting horse riders or train cutting horses on cattle. For purposes of this rule, a cutting horse training operation is any facility where cutting horses are trained.

**The following rules shall govern all Non-Professionals:**

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1. A Non-Professional must individually pay all his/her own fees and other costs involved with cutting horses if he/she is more than twenty-one (21) years of age, unless these costs are paid by the Non-Professional's spouse or minor child. If a Non-Professional is less than twenty-one (21) years of age, entry fees and other costs may be paid by the individual's parent or guardian.
  
2. Any person who has received direct or indirect remuneration for showing, training or assisting in the training of a cutting horse within the past five (5) years will not be eligible to enter or show in a Non-Professional cutting horse class. *An individual may apply for non-pro status if he/she meets the conditions as follows:*

*(a) has not performed training duties in the past calendar year and has won no more than \$5,000 in open earnings (open earnings consist of winnings from the Open, Novice Horse, and Open Aged Event Classes)*

*or*

*(b) has not performed training duties in the past three(3) calendar years and has won no more than \$10,000 in open earnings (open earnings consist of winnings from Open, Novice Horse, and Open Aged Event classes)*

*or*

*(d) has not performed training duties in the past five (5) calendar years and has won no more than \$20,000 in open earnings (open earnings consist of winnings from Open, Novice Horse, and Open Aged Event Classes).*



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*Open earnings as applied to (a), (b) and (c) above will include all ACHA and NCHA earnings, including aged event earnings for the applicable number of years as set out in (a), (b) or (c) above.*

All Non-Professional applications made based upon Rule 37 c; 2, a, b & c shall be referred to the Non-Professional Committee. After investigation and review, the committee will report their findings and make recommendation to the Board of Directors. All decisions of the Board of Directors shall be final.

This Association does not consider cutting horse trainers' spouses who do not teach cutting horse riders or train cutting horses on cattle as receiving indirect remuneration.

3. A Non-Professional may show a horse that is not owned by the contestant or the contestant's immediate family in the \$2,500 or \$1000 Novice Rider classes.
4. Any horse exhibited by any ACHA Non Professional in any approved or unapproved cutting horse class must be owned by the contestant showing the horse (except as hereafter provided by Rule 37 C.5, a.)
  - a. Allowed to ride family owned horses:  
Husband and Wife  
Father or Mother and their Sons, Daughters, or Legal Step Children (until age 29)  
Grandfather or Grandmother  
  
Not allowed:  
In-laws, Aunts, Uncles, Nieces, Nephews,  
Cousins, or any other relatives can not ride each other's horses.

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Sister over (21) or Brother over (21), to any age sister or brother, cannot ride each others horses.

The sons, daughters, or legal step children must be (29) twenty nine years or less on the horse to ride in Weekend Shows and (21) years old or less to ride in Limited Aged Events on family owned horses.

Any Non Professional who enters or competes on an ineligible horse in a Cutting Horse Class shall be subject to disciplinary action from the Board of Directors, by either probation, suspension, fine or restitutions of earnings, whichever in their opinion fits the infraction.

The Board of Directors or Executive Board may require, within their sole, absolute and unlimited discretion, any supportive documentation (including but not limited to sworn affidavits, legal opinions, certified public accountants certificates, K-1's) at the expense of the non-pro contestant, to confirm and verify the legal and equitable ownership interests of the entity.

5. Documented proof of ownership, together with documented evidence of consideration paid, may be required on any horse ridden in any ACHA Non-Professional Class. Proof of ownership shall be exhibited to Show Management or a designated representative upon request. The (1) original breed association registration certificate for a registered horse, or (2) a sworn affidavit (which shall include as an exhibit thereto a photocopy of the current breed association registration certificate) executed by the non-

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professional contest, showing current ownership shall be deemed as acceptable proof of ownership (non-conclusive) for a registered horse under this Standing Rule.

- a. In the event that a contestant is unable to provide proper proof of ownership at the time of entry, any premium monies won may be withheld by show management until such time as proper and acceptable proof has been provided.
- b. Only one name may be used for an unregistered horse in any and all ACHA approved classes. Prior to entering any ACHA approved class, an owner of an unregistered horse is responsible for filing with the ACHA Secretary a name and description of the unregistered horse in addition to a statement of ownership. This shall be deemed as acceptable proof of ownership for an unregistered horse under the Standing Rule.
- c. A Non-Professional will only transfer ownership or receive a transfer of ownership of a horse for purposes of competing in ACHA contests on a bona fide, permanent basis; permanent shall mean to own with an intent to retain ownership and no present intent to transfer ownership. A Non-Professional will not transfer or receive transfer of a horse pursuant to any arrangement in which (1) the Non Professional or any third party is to have an express or implied present or future interest in the ownership of the horse for the purpose of showing the horse at ACHA contests; (2) any part of the winnings, profits or expenses are to be shared, directly or indirectly, between the Non-Professional and any other

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person; or (3) all or part of the purchase price is to be paid from the winnings of the horse. A Non-Professional may not show a horse concerning which there is an agreement express or implied, that the horse will be transferred to another person in the future for the purpose of showing the horse in ACHA contest. The Executive Committee or Board of Directors, or designated members of these committees shall have the right to review and fully investigate any transaction regarding the purchase, gift or sale of a horse by a Non-Professional.

6. Upon request by a Non Pro rider of the Show Secretary at the show where a horse is to be tried, a permit will be issued authorizing the same. The permit will allow the ACHA Non-Professional to show a horse not owned by that contestant in the Open, *\$15,000 Limit Class*, or *\$3,000 Novice Class*, only if the horse is eligible, at a maximum of two (2) ACHA contests at that affiliate. The horse and shows must be named with the exact dates, and there must be no violation of Standing Rule 16 d. Only one such permit will be granted a rider for a given horse. Under no circumstances will points/earnings won count toward any ACHA or affiliate awards, title, or certificate for either rider or horse. The Show Secretary will verify eligibility and forward the permit to the ACHA office.

- 37 D. **Youth Rider:** Open to any member of the ACHA who is eighteen (18) years of age or younger on the first day of the current ACHA point year.

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### **Rule 38.** Rules governing *ALL* contestants:

- 38 A. Show Management has the right to disqualify or refuse entry to any contestant for actions of misconduct, un-sportsmanlike conduct, or harassing the judge(s), Show Management, employees, or other contestants. If a contestant is disqualified for violating a Standing Rule of the ACHA, all entry fees and premiums pertaining to said contestant shall be forfeited.
- 38 B. A contestant may drop out of any class due to injury to the contestant or the contestant's horse, or due to serious injury, sickness or death in the contestant's family and receive all monies won in go-rounds. *[A contestant may substitute a horse in place of the injured horse, prior to or after the draw, but before the first horse in that class crosses the time line, provided that the same owner owns the horse to be substituted and all eligibility requirements are met. In the youth, \$2500 Novice rider and \$1000 Novice rider classes, the same owner requirement is waived.]* A contestant shall not at any time withdraw from any class in which the contestant is participating due to dissatisfaction or grievance with the judge(s), Show Management, or other contestants without forfeiting all money won in previous go-rounds. In no event will entry fees, or any part thereof, be refunded after a class starts. A class will be considered started when the draw is completed by Show Management.
- 38 C. All contestants must work at the appointed time so designated by the Show Management or be disqualified for that class or go-round with no score. A contestant who fails to work at the appointed time will receive no score for that class or go-round.

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- 38 D. A contestant shall not enter the show arena and/or warm up area at any time at an ACHA approved cutting horse contest with any kind of training device or gimmick of any nature. Training activities of any kind while on the show grounds, other than in designated practice facilities, are prohibited. A contestant shall not be allowed to abuse or mistreat any horse in any manner in the show arena or on the show grounds. Show Management or the judge at an ACHA approved contest may disqualify a contestant if that contestant violates this rule, and all premiums pertaining to said contestant shall be forfeited.
- 38 E. After the buzzer sounds, the contestant will discontinue working and ride his/her horse forward past the time line before dismounting, except to retrieve a lost article. Once the lost article is retrieved, the rider must remount and continue riding the horse forward past the time line. Failure to comply with this rule will result in disqualification from a class or go-round with no score.
- 38 F. A contestant or member shall not talk with the judge(s), beyond the exchange of normal greetings, before the show or until the entire contest or show is completed or make any comments within a judge's hearing about any performance during the contest or show. A contestant or member is prohibited from making comments to a judge(s) regarding the manner in which a class was judged until at least thirty (30) days after the class involved.
- 38 G. A contestant, or member, shall not engage in any form of misconduct or harassment toward Show Management, judges or ACHA employees at any ACHA approved show or event. Infraction of this rule will result in a fine and possible suspension by the ACHA Board of Directors or Executive Board.

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- 38 H. Unsportsmanlike conduct in the show arena or on the show grounds is prohibited.
- 38 I. A contestant shall not intimidate, or attempt to intimidate, a judge(s). The penalty for violating this rule will be a minimum of six (6) months suspension from the ACHA.
- 38 J. No dogs are permitted in the show arena or designated warm up or practice areas while an ACHA approved cutting horse contest is taking place. Dogs anywhere on the grounds must be on a leash at all times.
- 38 K. No alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs may be consumed or brought into the show arena or designated warm up or practice areas while an ACHA approved cutting horse contest is taking place. Anyone found consuming alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs in any of the areas defined above shall be asked to leave by Show Management. Members shall be disqualified from the contest and will be subject to disciplinary procedures by the Executive Board or Board of Directors for violation of this rule.
- 38 L. Inhumane treatment or abuse of a horse in any manner in the show arena or on the show grounds is prohibited.
1. If Show Management or a judge at any ACHA approved show discovers inhumane treatment or abuse of a horse, they may immediately bar the responsible party and horse from further competition in the show. Show Management must notify the ACHA Board of Directors of any action taken regarding enforcement of this rule within seven (7) days of the closing date of the show involved. After further review, the ACHA Executive Board or Board of Directors may impose additional disciplinary action for violations of this rule.

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2. Inhumane treatment includes, but is not limited to, the exhibition of a crippled or injured horse, or a horse with any other health abnormality, which could thereby result in the horse's undue discomfort or distress. The decision of Show Management or a judge as to inhumane treatment should be based upon consultation with a veterinarian. If Show Management or a judge determines, at the sole discretion of either, that the welfare of the horse requires immediate action, and a veterinarian is not available, Show Management or a judge may implement any action allowed by this rule. Any member desiring to file a complaint regarding any alleged violation of any ACHA Standing Rule may do so by submitting the complaint in writing to the ACHA Board of Directors within seven days of the closing date of the contest or incident involved.
  
3. Abuse includes, but is not limited to, excessive jerking, spurring, whipping, slapping, or hitting a horse in the head or using a bit in such a way that a horse is caused to bleed from its mouth or face. Any act of abuse, or intent to abuse a horse, in the show arena or on the show grounds which could also potentially endanger the safety of other persons or animals will be dealt with in the strongest possible manner.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> offense \$500 fine and 60 days probation
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> offense \$1,000 fine and 90 days suspension
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> offense \$2,500 fine and one (1) year suspension. Membership to be reinstated only by the ACHA Board of Directors.
  
4. Administration of drugs while in the show arena, practice arenas, alleys leading into the arenas or any other public areas of the show grounds is strictly



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prohibited, unless administration is required in a life saving situation. Such an instance must be reported to show management. The decision of show management as to life saving treatment should be based on consultation with a veterinarian. Show management shall disqualify rider and/or owner for violation of this rule.

- 38 M. After the start of any ACHA approved or sponsored show, any person in the working area in front of the judge's stand must wear western attire, including a western hat/equestrian helmet, boots, long sleeved shirt buttoned or snapped down the front, with collars, and with sleeves rolled down. T-shirts and slipover knits are not permissible. Chaps are optional. Management of shows being held outdoors may waive any part of the attire rule under extreme weather conditions, or for the practice sessions held before or after the show. Failure to comply with this dress code will result in disqualification from a class or go-round with no score.

In the warm up or practice pen areas at an ACHA approved show, long or short sleeved collared shirts are permissible. Tank tops, sleeveless shirts, T-shirts, shorts or flip flops are NOT acceptable at any time while horseback in the warm up or practice pen areas of an ACHA approved show. Hats are optional in the warm up and practice pen areas. No unsafe activities, such as riding double (including small children) lead lining, ponying, or unruly horses or riders will be tolerated. This rule will be monitored by show management, as well as ACHA Directors. Any ACHA member who wishes to report a violation of this rule may do so to show management or ACHA Director at the time of the incident. First offense will be a written warning. Each subsequent offense will be

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fined \$50. Nonpayment of this fine will result in suspension of ACHA membership.

- 38 M 1 In any training class, such as Ride and Slide or Fool'em and School'em, riders will wear full attire, use no training devices, uphold rules concerning zero tolerance of inhumane treatment of the horse, and work for a maximum of five minutes.
- 38 N. Any ACHA member or non-member whose check given in connection with the exhibition of cutting horses is returned by the maker's bank shall result in the contestant being assessed a fee of \$25.00 per occurrence. Full restitution for the face value of the check plus the \$25.00 fee must be received within 30 days from date of notice. Notification shall be in accordance with Standing Rule 45.
1. Any check given by the owner, contestant or on contestant's behalf in connection with the exhibition of cutting horses that is returned by the maker's bank and the payor or contestant fails to make full restitution within 30 days of date of notice, or any owner or contestant who fails to pay entry fees and/or related show expenses, shall forfeit all winnings and such winnings shall not count for any ACHA special or year end awards until full restitution, including all fees, are received.
  2. Failure to make full restitution, including all fees, within 30 days of date of notice will result in an automatic suspension with no disciplinary hearing necessary. Suspension will be sustained until full restitution, including all fees, are received. Suspension will be in accordance with Standing Rule 42.

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3. In the event, after written demand upon the payor or contestant, an affiliate has not received restitution for an NSF check, the affiliate may forward the NSF check and evidence of written demand upon the payor or contestant to the ACHA office. Upon receipt of the above items, which must occur within ninety (90) days from date of the NSF check, the ACHA will reimburse the affiliate in the amount of the NSF check.
- 38 O. The responsibility for reporting violations of Standing Rule 38 rests with, but is not limited to, Show Management, ACHA Officers, Directors, officials and the judge(s).
- 38 P. Any member desiring to file a complaint regarding any alleged violation of any ACHA Standing Rule must first attempt to resolve the matter by discussing the problem with the class representative, Show Management, or a member of the Board attending the show where the violation occurred.

If the complaint can not be resolved at this level, any member desiring to then file a complaint regarding any alleged violation of any ACHA Standing Rule may do so by submitting a written description of the occurrence to the ACHA Secretary within seven days of the closing date of the contest or incident involved.

The ACHA Secretary will submit the letter to the ACHA President, who will place the letter of complaint with the appropriate committee for their investigation and consideration.

The Chairperson shall request an immediate written response from the aggrieved party. The Chairperson shall meet with the Committee to review the complaint and the

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response. If after review and investigation of the matter by the Committee it is of the opinion that a rule violation has occurred, the Chairperson shall file a written report to the ACHA President of the Committee's findings and recommendations.

The President shall present the findings and recommendations to the Executive Board and the Board of Directors, who shall make the final decision on disciplinary action consistent with the provisions of the rules as it deems appropriate.

A letter shall be sent to the parties involved by the ACHA President informing them of the decisions made by the Board of Directors, who shall make the final decision on disciplinary action consistent with the provision of these rules as it deems appropriate.

A letter shall be sent to the parties involved by the ACHA President informing them of the decisions made regarding the matter. The decisions of the Board of Directors shall be final and binding unless a written notice of the member's intention to appeal that decision is received in the ACHA office within fifteen (15) days of the date of the letter notifying said member or members of the disciplinary action taken against the party or parties.

If notice of appeal is received in the ACHA office within fifteen (15) days of the written notice sent regarding the Board's action, a hearing will be scheduled to be conducted pursuant to the provisions of ACHA Standing Rule 40.

The ACHA Board of Directors retains the right to file a complaint within one year of the contest or incident involved.

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- 38 Q. Cell phone usage in front of the judges stand is not permissible at any time. Fines for this rule violation shall be:
- |                |          |
|----------------|----------|
| First offense  | \$50.00  |
| Second offense | \$100.00 |
| Third offense  | \$500.00 |
- 38 R. *At the beginning of each point year a contestant must provide each affiliate's show secretary with a copy of horse registration papers.*
- Rule 39. A Contestant Representative shall be designated for each ACHA approved class to serve as sole liaison between contestants and Show Management.
- 39 A. Provided a Contestant Representative has not been appointed by the Show Management, it shall be the duty of Show Management to hold a meeting of all contestants in each class prior to the draw of that class for the purpose of electing a representative for the duration of the show. In the event the Contestant Representative has to leave the show for any reason, he shall appoint a representative in his place for the duration of the show. Any Contestant Representative so appointed or elected must be a contestant in the class involved.
- 39 B. The Contestant's Representative, or an appointed alternate, must submit a Confidential Contest Report if he observes any actions by a contestant, Show Management or judge detrimental to the best interests of the ACHA. Such action includes, but is not limited to, the following: any horse being abused, abusive language, intoxication, use of an illegal drug, use of a prohibited training device, or any other infraction of ACHA Standing Rules.

### **Section VII Disciplinary Procedures**

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- Rule 40.** Any ACHA member may be disciplined, fined, placed on probation or suspended from the ACHA, and any member or non-member may be denied all privileges, including show privileges, of the ACHA by the ACHA Executive Board or Board of Directors whenever it shall have been established by a preponderance of the evidence that such member or non-member has violated any rule of the Association. When the rule in question contains a specific punishment provision, any disciplinary action taken must be consistent with that provision.
- 40 A. When a member or non-member shall be accused of any violation, the individual shall be given not less than fifteen (15) days notice of a time and place for hearing such accusation by the Executive Board or Board of Directors. At the designated time and place of the hearing, the individual shall have an opportunity, in person or by counsel, to be heard and to present evidence in his/her behalf and to hear and refute evidence offered against the individual. Notification of such hearing will be issued in accordance with Standing Rule 45.
- 40 B. No continuance shall be granted unless requested in writing at least seven (7) days prior to the hearing and good cause is shown. A continuance shall be granted or denied at the sole discretion of the ACHA President.
- 40 C. The decision of the ACHA Executive Board or Board of Directors shall be final and binding on all parties.
- 40 D. A suspended person by the ACHA will not be allowed to participate in any ACHA approved cutting horse contest as an owner of a horse, a rider, or an agent. In the event such suspended person enters an approved contest or enters the warm up area or contest arena on foot or horseback for any

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reason during the period of the person's suspension, an additional six (6) months will be added to the person's suspension.

- 40 E. ACHA has the right to suspend or deny membership to any person suspended from other horse associations for unsportsmanlike conduct or inhumane treatment of horses.

**Rule 41.** Any member of the ACHA who threatens or actually inflicts bodily harm or injury to another person based upon that person's actions, conduct, or decisions while acting in any official capacity for the ACHA or for any ACHA approved contest shall be suspended from membership in the ACHA for a period of not less than one (1) year.

**Rule 42.** Any member may be suspended and denied privileges of the ACHA, and any non-member, approved show or official thereof may be denied privileges of the ACHA for the failure to pay when due, any obligation owing to the ACHA or an ACHA Affiliate or for giving a check (or one given on contestant's behalf) returned by the maker's bank for entry fees, stall fees, office charges, stock charges, premiums or any other fees or charges connected with the exhibition of cutting horses; provided, however, that the member or non-member subject to suspension shall be given thirty (30) days written notice of the amount due and the intention of the ACHA to suspend or withhold privileges. Any suspension and denial of privileges under this section shall terminate upon full payment of the obligation due the ACHA.

**Rule 43.** If any member institutes litigation in which the ACHA is included as a defendant in an effort to recover damages, to overturn enforcement or interpretation of the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules or Regulations, or for any other reason what so ever, and does not prevail in said litigation by the re-

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covery of all relief requested, said member shall be liable to the ACHA for its attorney's fees, costs of courts, and other expenses incurred in connection with such litigation. Venue for any litigation in which the ACHA is included as a defendant shall be Washington County, Texas.

**Rule 44.** No person shall make a derogatory remark, nor take, or threaten to take, adverse action against an ACHA sponsor its agent, servants or employees, relating in any manner to the sponsor's involvement with the ACHA or an ACHA approved contest. Any person who violates this rule is subject to disciplinary action and is also responsible to the ACHA for any loss or damage caused by a violation of this rule.

**Rule 45.** Every notice required by these rules and regulations may be served by delivering a copy of the notice to the person to be served, or his/her attorney, either in person or by mail, postage prepaid, to his/her last know address as it appears on the ACHA records and upon mailing, such notice shall be deemed received by such person when it is deposited in the United States mail. Email delivery is also acceptable. Text messaging is **NOT** considered legal notice.

### **Section VIII Rules for Judging Cutting Horse Contests**

**Rule 46.** A horse will be given credit for his ability to enter a herd of cattle quietly with very little disturbance to the herd or to the cow being brought from the herd. One (1) deep cut must be made into the herd, or a three (3) point penalty will be assessed.

46 A. When an animal is cut from the herd, it is more desirable that it be taken toward the center of the arena, and credit



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will be given for same. Additional credit will be given the horse which drives a cow a sufficient distance from the herd to insure that the herd will not be disturbed by the horse's performance.

- 46 B. Credit will be given for the ability of the horse to hold a cow in the center of the arena, although no penalty should be imposed if a cow goes to a fence on either side of the arena.

**Rule 47.** Credit will be given for riding with a loose rein throughout a performance.

- 47 A. During a run, a rider will be penalized one (1) point each time the reins are used to control or direct (to rein) the horse. If the reins are tight enough so that the bit is bumped at any time during the run, even though the rider's hand does not move, a one (1) point penalty will be assessed for each occurrence.

- 47 B. The rider shall hold the bridle reins in one hand. A three (3) point penalty shall be assessed if the rider's second hand touches the reins for any purpose other than to straighten the reins while returning to the herd after working a cow.

- 47 C. A rider must cease reining his/her horse as soon as the desired cow is clear of the herd. Additional reining, cueing, or positioning will result in a one (1) point penalty for each occurrence. A rider is allowed to place his hand on the horse's neck. At the discretion of the judge, a one point penalty may be assessed each time the rider cues the horse with his hands.

- 47 D. If a rider or the rider's horse creates a disturbance at any time throughout the working time, penalties will be assess-

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ed as follows:

1. Any noise directed by the contestant toward the cattle will be penalized one (1) point.
2. Any time that cattle enter the working area through the fault of the horse or contestant, the contestant will be penalized three (3) points. If, at no fault of the horse, additional cattle leave the herd, no penalty will be assessed.
3. The judge shall stop any work because of training or abuse of the horse by the contestant or disturbance of the cattle. Any contestant failing to stop immediately when requested or upon a whistle blown by the judge will be subject to disciplinary action by the ACHA.

47 E. A horse will be penalized three (3) points each time the back fence actually stops or turns the cow being worked within one (1) step or three (3) feet of the back fence. The “back fence” is to be agreed on and designated by the judge(s) before the contest starts, meaning the actual fence only, no imaginary line from point to point to be considered. If any of the contestants voice an objection to the proposed back fence before the contest starts, the judge(s) shall take a vote of the contestants and a back fence acceptable to the majority shall be designated and used.

**Rule 48.** If a horse lets a cow that he is working get back in the herd, he will be penalized five (5) points.

**Rule 49.** If a rider changes cattle after visibly committing to a specific cow, a five (5) point penalty will be assessed.

**Rule 50.** If a horse turns the wrong way, with his tail toward a cow being worked, an automatic score of sixty (60) points will be given.

**Rule 51.** If a horse quits a cow, a penalty of five (5) points will be

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assessed.

- Rule 52.** If a horse clears the herd with two (2) or more cows and fails to separate a single cow before quitting, a five (5) point penalty will be assessed. There is no penalty if time expires before a single cow is separated.
- Rule 53.** Unnecessary aggression, such as a horse pawing, biting, or kicking a cow, will result in a three (3) point penalty being assessed.
- Rule 54.** If a horse is spurred in the shoulder, a three (3) point penalty shall be assessed for each occurrence. Spurring behind the shoulder is not considered a visible cue, and should not be penalized.
- Rule 55.** A rider's use of a toe, foot, or stirrup on the horse's shoulder is considered a visible cue, and a one (1) point penalty shall be assessed for each occurrence.
- Rule 56.** When a horse goes past a cow to a degree that the horse loses his working advantage, a one (1) point penalty will be assessed for each occurrence.
- Rule 57.** A contestant may quit a cow when it is obviously stopped, obviously turned away, or is behind the turnback horses and the turnback horses are behind the time line. If the cow is quit under any other circumstances, a penalty of three (3) points shall be assessed.
- Rule 58.** All horses in the show arena, including horses ridden by herd holders and turnback help, must be ridden with a bridle having a bit in the mouth or with a hackamore. A bridle shall have no nose band or bosal, and hackamores shall be rope or braided rawhide with no metal parts. A judge must be able to freely pass two (2) fingers completely around the horse's nose between the hackamore and

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muzzle. Choke ropes, lip wire or lip string, tie downs, wire around the horse's neck, nose, or browband, tight nose bands, quirts, bats or mechanical devices giving the rider undue control over a horse will not be permitted in the arena where an ACHA approved contest is being held. Breast collars may be used, no portion of which may pass over the horse's neck. Chaps and spurs may be worn. A competing horse's tail must not be restrained or tied in any manner which restricts movement of the tail. A Judge has the right to have a contestant report to him if he is suspicious of any infraction of this rule. Any time a contestant is guilty of an infraction of this rule, the contestant shall be disqualified. It is recommended that each affiliate conduct a bit check of at least two (2) horses per show day. The manner of selecting the horses can be determined by the Judge or the Show Secretary. The Judge will inspect the bridle at the end of the run in the show arena.

- Rule 59.** At any ACHA approved or sponsored show, any person in the working area in front of the judges stand will be required to adhere to the dress code as outlined in Standing Rule 38 M. Failure to comply with this dress code will result in disqualification from a class or go-round with no score. This rule may be set aside by Show Management for practice sessions.
- Rule 60.** Any rider who allows his horse to quit working or leave the working area before his allotted time is up will be disqualified for that class or go-round with no score.
- Rule 61.** When a contestant falls or is thrown from a horse, or a horse falls to the ground, an automatic score of sixty (60) points will be given. A horse is considered to have fallen to the ground when the horse is on its side and all four feet are extended in the same direction.

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- Rule 62.** Each contestant is limited to a maximum of four (4) helpers.
- Rule 63.** A judge marks each performance from sixty (60) to eighty (80) points. One-half (1/2) points may be used.
- Rule 64.** When a judge is in doubt about a penalty, the benefit always should go to the contestant.
- 64A. A judge may give a score with a review prior to the announcement of the official placing of the class, and then review that run. If there is doubt, the benefit of doubt goes to the rider.
- Rule 65.** A contestant will be awarded a rework under circumstances outlined in Standing Rule 25 and 25A.
- Rule 66.** In any contest judged by two (2) or more judges, any inconsistency in assessing a major penalty, that penalty and that penalty only, shall be reviewed by all judges (or the monitor when applicable), and a determination made immediately following the completion of the class. No review may be conducted subsequent to the announcement of the official placing of the class.

### **SUMMARY OF PENALTY POINTS**

<b><u>Infraction</u></b>	<b><u>Points Deducted</u></b>
Reining	1
Bit is bumped	1
Cueing after cow has cleared the herd	1
Noise directed toward the cattle	1
Cueing on the horse's shoulder or neck	1
Losing working advantage (a "miss")	1

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Failure to make a deep cut	3
Second hand on reins	3
Disturbing the herd (picking up cattle)	3
Backfence	3
Horse's unnecessary aggression	3
Spurring in the shoulder	3
Hot quit	3
Losing a cow	5
Switching cows	5
Horse quitting a cow	5
Failure to separate cows	5
Horse turns tail to cow	automatic score of 60
Contestant falls or is thrown	automatic score of 60
Horse falls to the ground	automatic score of 60
Dismounting in working area	disqualification
Improper equipment	disqualification
Horse's tail restricted	disqualification
Failure to adhere to dress code	disqualification
Leaving arena before time is up	disqualification
Failure to stop after judge's whistle	disciplinary action

### **Points on Showing and Judging Cutting Horses**

The following questions and answers are included here as an aid to understanding the Rules for Judging Cutting Horse Contests.

#### **1. What is the desired number of cattle to work?**

The desired number of cattle to cut in the two and one-half (2 ½) minute time limit is not over three (3) head on fresh cattle. If a cutter can do as much on two (2) head as another can do on three (3), the cutter working the two (2) head should have the higher score because he or she has not spent as much time in the herd.

#### **2. What is the preferable way to approach the herd?**

A horse should never be set down hard approaching the herd. Either walking or trotting to the herd is acceptable provided the

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horse is taken up very easily before getting close enough to disturb the cattle. The horse should display no hesitation, weaving, or reluctance to approach and enter the herd.

### **3. What characteristics should be demonstrated when entering and working the herd?**

A cutting horse should enter the herd with ease, concentrating on the job to be done, not looking around excessively. The horse should be alert, but quiet, making no unnecessary movements to disturb the cattle. A horse should go deep enough into the herd on one (1) cut to demonstrate the ability to bring out a cow. It is permissible to enter the herd from either side or to go completely behind the entire herd to bring out a cow.

### **4. When should a rider cease reining a horse?**

A rider entering the herd may have light rein contact with the horse, and may maintain this contact while the rider is in the herd and in the process of cutting a cow from the rest of the herd. When the cow to be cut is completely free from the herd environment, the rider should cease reining the horse, allowing enough slack in the reins so that it is obvious to the judge that the horse is working without being reined.

### **5. What is the most desirable way to bring a cow from the herd?**

The cutting horse should stay a reasonable distance from the cow if possible, showing a great deal of expression but no illness toward the animal being cut. Illness is defined as biting, trying to bite, pawing, kicking, or charging at a cow. Facial expression and ear position should not be considered a sign of illness. The horse should make counter movements to the cow, regardless of the distance separating them. The horse should not rush or push cattle excessively in bringing a cow from the herd unless the cow turns around and tries to get back at the edge of the herd. The horse should bring a cow a sufficient distance from the herd toward the center of the arena, so the herd will not be disturbed while working, and set up the cow to be worked.

### **6. When is a cow set up (in working position)?**

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The cow should be set up as close to the middle of the arena as possible with the horse counteracting the movements of the cow. The horse should not be moving when the cow is standing still. When the cow moves, the horse should be just enough faster to hold the cow, not only from returning to the herd, but also from going from side wall to side wall without excessive assistance from the turnback help. A higher score will be given to a run in which a horse “heads” his cattle as opposed to a run in which the turnback men consistently turn the cattle.

### **7. When is a horse out of position?**

A horse is out of position when he has lost his working advantage over the cow. This is not determined by the distance that a horse goes by a cow; it is determined by the response of the horse to the action of the cow. A horse should have no difficulty maintaining working advantage over a slow moving cow. The horse that can maintain working advantage over a cow that presents a severe challenge shall receive credit. No penalty should be charged the horse that immediately regains position after going sufficiently past a cow to cause it to turn.

### **8. When does picking up cattle constitute a penalty?**

A penalty shall be assessed if a cow or cattle leave the herd and enter the working area due to disturbance caused by the horse or the contestant that is working.

### **9. What is a satisfactory way of quitting a cow?**

A contestant may quit a cow when it is obviously stopped, obviously turned away, or is behind the turnback horses and the turnback horses are behind the time line. If a cow is quit under any other circumstances, a three (3) point penalty will be assessed.

### **10. Guidelines to consider in judging a cutting run.**

A judge may apply the following guidelines in determining an appropriate score for a cutting run.

#### **A. Give credit:**

1. for entering the herd quietly with very little disturbance to the herd or to the cow brought out.
2. for taking a cow toward the center of the arena.



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3. for driving a cow a sufficient distance from the herd to assure that the herd will not be disturbed by the contestant's work.
  4. for riding with a loose rein throughout a performance.
  5. for setting up a cow and holding it in a working position as near the center of the arena as possible.
- B. Consider the degree of difficulty of the run: The degree of difficulty of the run is determined by the amount of effort exerted by the cow in its attempt to return to the herd. A cow that turns quickly and moves rapidly is more difficult to hold in a working position than a cow that turns and moves slowly. A judge must give credit when a contestant is able to hold a working position on a tough cow.
- C. Consider the eye appeal of the run: The eye appeal of the run is determined by the attractiveness of the run because of the style of the horse and the correctness of the overall performance.
- D. Consider the amount of courage shown by a contestant: A judge shall give credit for a contestant staying on a tough cow. Credit shall be given a contestant coming off the fence with a cow and then establishing a working position near the center of the arena before quitting a cow.
- E. Consider the amount of working time (the time a contestant actually spends working cattle during the 2 ½ minute run): A contestant shall be given credit for his willingness to exhibit his horse actually working cattle. Obvious stalling in the herd or reluctance to cut a cow to allow time to run off the clock shall have a negative influence on the total point value of the run.
- F. Run content:
1. Run content is a numerical evaluation (60-80) based on a running analysis of what actually occurs during the work, without regard to penalty.
  2. Guidelines for evaluating a run: The judge will start judging each horse when the contestant's time begins, and each run will be started from a median score of (70).

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The run will conclude at the first sound of the buzzer. The contestant's run content will be based upon compliance with credit situations. Numerical value of run content will fluctuate up or down (60-80) throughout the run. Run content may be decreased without actual occurrence of a penalty. Actual occurrence of penalties will only be deducted at the conclusion of the run. At any point in the run, a judge should be able to ascribe a numerical value based on the above standard. The standard is run content (a numerical value) minus penalties equals the score.

$$\begin{aligned} &\underline{\text{RUN CONTENT}} = \underline{\text{NUMERIC VALUE}} \\ &\quad \underline{\text{minus PENALTIES}} = \underline{\text{SCORE}} \end{aligned}$$

### Suggestions for Show Management

- Apply and return to the American Cutting Horse Association, a Show Application for approval of your cutting horse contest in accordance with standing Rule 9 and 12. The premium lists and entry applications must be filled out completely, especially if an elimination round is to be held.
- Set the amount of purse, entry fee, and closing date of entry.
- The entry fee must not be less than \$10.00 per horse. Entry fees shall be added to the purse. If any charge is to be made other than an entry fee, it must be stated as a stall, grounds, handling, cattle, or office charge, and be separated from the entry fee. In any class where rerun cattle are used, the cattle charge should be reduced.
- Any show with added money exceeding \$300.00 in any one contest must be approved by the Board of Directors.
- Select one or more judges from the ACHA Approved Judges List. At least two (2) judges must be used for any show adding \$1,000.00 or more. The same judges should not be used in successive years at shows offering more than \$1,000.00 in added purses.

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- Determine the number of go-rounds to be worked.
- Appoint or elect a Contestant Representative for each approved class before the working order of the class is drawn. The Contestant Representative *may* witness the draw in all classes that have added money.
- Judges must draw for working order of horses in all classes that have any added money in the presence of the Contestant Representative. Show Management may elect to designate a contestant not entered in the class involved to draw the working order of horses in those classes with no added money.
- If the clock has not been started or if it malfunctions, the Show Secretary or timer shall notify the judge(s). The judge(s) has the sole right to terminate a horse's performance.
- Show Management should monitor loping pen conduct.
- Suggestions for getting horses ready in the loping pen. Riders should walk or trot to the inside of the loping area, and lope to the outside of the loping area. Keep sufficient distance away from other riders to prevent cutting someone off or clipping another rider's stirrups. Do your stopping and backing away from the flow of horses. ACHA recommends monitoring appropriate attire and conduct in the loping pen. Post recommendations at the shows.

### **BYLAWS**

#### **Article I Name**

- Section 1. The name of the association shall be the American Cutting Horse Association.
- Section 2. The principal office of the association shall be the address of the duly appointed secretary or any address designated by the Board of Directors.
- Section 3. The association shall at all times be operated and conducted as a non-profit association in accordance with the laws of the state of Texas providing for such organizations and by which it shall acquire all such rights as granted to associations of this kind. There shall be no capital stock.

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### **Article II Definition**

- Section 1. The term ‘Cutting Horse Association’ shall mean an organization formed for the purpose of promoting cutting contests as a sport and encouraging individuals, companies, and groups to become involved in breeding, raising, training, and exhibiting cutting horses in the contest arena.

### **Article III Purpose**

- Section 1. The primary purpose of the American Cutting Horse Association shall be to approve cutting horse contests and the keeping of completed records of these contests. Individual records are maintained on each competing horse and/or rider. At the end of each annual point year the ACHA Top 10 cutting horses, Top 10 riders and Top 10 youth riders are recognized and honored by the Association. Champions and reserve champions are named in each class.

### **Article IV Members**

- Section 1. Any individual, firm, partnership, organization, riding club, state or sectional group interested in the development of better horses, and the ever increasing popularity of the true cutting horse, may become a member of the association by applying to the Secretary and paying the membership fee and annual dues. Applicant is not required to own or ride a cutting horse.
- Section 2. Election of members: The Secretary may approve membership applications unless, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, a membership committee is set up for that purpose.

### **Article V Classes of Membership**

- Section 1. Membership Classifications:  
Regular Members – Individuals, firms, partnerships, corporations or organizations who pay the annual dues as set from time to time by the Board of Directors and approved by the members.  
Affiliate Members – Any organization consisting of 10 or more ACHA members who pay the annual affiliate dues and desire to promote and sponsor cutting horse contests with the

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approval and co-sponsorship of the American Cutting Horse Association.

Section 2. Membership in the Association is not transferable.

Section 3. Acceptance of affiliates is subject to Board approval and such approval may be revoked at any time.

### **Article VI Voting Rights**

Section 1. Eligible Members:

A. Individuals who are either regular or life members in good standing shall have one vote on all issues pertaining to the amendment of the bylaws or any other issue the Board deems necessary. Said voting shall be by mail ballot to the member's last known address. Said ballots shall be returned to the ACHA office within 30 days of mailing.

B. Members other than individual persons shall have the same voting rights providing such members, firm, company, or organization has designated to the Secretary, one person from the firm, company or organization. The designated person cannot vote for himself and for the firm, company or organization.

Section 2. Proxy votes shall not be accepted.

### **Article VII Suspension and Expulsion**

The American Cutting Horse Association Board of Directors may suspend or expel any member of an affiliate for just cause outlined in the Standing Rules of the Association.

### **Article VIII Business Year**

The Association will operate on a calendar year beginning January 1 and ending December 31.

### **Article IX Meetings**

Section 1. Annual Meetings:

A meeting of the membership shall be held annually. Notification of the membership meeting shall be sent to all members of record at their last known address at least 15 days prior to the meeting date.

Section 2. Special Meetings:

A. Special meetings may be called at any time by:

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1. The President
  2. A majority of the Board
  3. By request of not less than 25% of the membership.
- B. Notice of special meetings shall be mailed to all members 15 days prior to the meeting date and reason for the special meeting shall be stated in the notice to the members.

Section 3. Quorum:

A majority of the member's present and voting at any meeting shall constitute a quorum.

Section 4. Order of Business:

The order of business at all meetings shall be as follows:

1. Call to order
2. Reading of minutes of previous meeting
3. Presentation and discussion of financial statements
4. Receiving communications
5. Reports of officers
6. Committee reports:
  - a. Standing
  - b. Special
7. Unfinished business
8. New business
9. Adjournment

Section 5. Suspension of Rules:

The order of business may be altered or suspended at any meeting by a majority vote of delegates present.

Section 6. Meeting Procedure:

The usual parliamentary rules as laid down in "Roberts Rules of Order" shall govern all deliberations when not in conflict with these Bylaws.

### **Article X Board of Directors**

- Section 1. The Board of Directors shall have supervision, control, and direction of the affairs of the Association, shall determine its policies or changes therein, within the limits of the Bylaws, shall actively prosecute its purposes and shall have discretion in the disbursements of its funds. It may adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of its business as shall

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be deemed advisable and may, in the execution of the powers granted, appoint such agents as it may consider necessary, will be responsible for electing an Executive Board and outlining the duties thereof, subject to approval, revision, or amendment by the members at any regular or special meeting of the members called in accordance with these Bylaws.

Section 2. All “elective” officers of the Association shall be members of the Board of Directors.

Section 3. At the first annual meeting following the organizational meeting, there shall be elected by ballot not less than 9 directors or more than 18 directors of the Association, one-third of who shall be elected for a term of one year, one-third shall be elected for a term of two years and one-third shall be elected for a term of three years. At each annual meeting thereafter, at least three directors shall be elected for a term of three years.

(The number of directors to be elected would correspond to one-third of the total number of directors.) Any director shall be eligible for reelection but may not serve more than two consecutive terms. Directors shall, upon election, immediately enter upon the performance of their duties and shall continue in office until their successors are duly elected and qualified.

Section 4. Membership Meetings: Except that the Board shall have a regular meeting at the time and place of the annual meeting, the Board shall meet upon call of the President at such time and place as he may designate and shall be called to meeting upon demand by a majority of the members of the Board of Directors. Notice of all meetings of the Board of Directors shall be sent to each member of the Board at his last recorded address at least 10 days in advance of such meeting.

Section 5. Quorum:

A majority of the whole Board shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Board. Any fewer number may adjourn

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from time to time until a quorum is present.

### Section 6. Absence:

Any member of the Board of Directors unable to attend a meeting shall in a letter addressed to the President or Secretary, state the reason for his absence. If a director is absent from two consecutive meetings for reasons which the Board had failed to declare to be sufficient, his resignation shall be deemed to have been tendered and accepted.

### Section 7. Compensation:

Directors, as such, shall not receive any compensation for their services as directors, but the Board may by resolution authorize reimbursement of expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. Such authorization may prescribe procedures for approval and payment of such expenses by designated officers of the Association. Nothing herein shall preclude a director from serving the Association in any other capacity and receiving compensation for such services.

### Section 8. Resignation or Removal:

Any director may resign at any time giving written notice to the President, the Secretary, or the Board of Directors. Such resignation shall take effect at the time specified therein, or, if no time is specified, at the time of acceptance thereof as determined by the President or the Board. Any director may be removed by a majority vote of the directors at any regular or special meeting at which a quorum is present. A Director that resigns will not be eligible to run as a Director again until his/her original term has expired.

### Section 9. Vacancies:

Any vacancies that may occur on the Board for any reason may be filled by the remaining members of the Board for the unexpired term.

### Section 10. Qualifications for Directors:

The American Cutting Horse Association shall annually publish a "Director Consent Form". Such form shall contain an explanation of the requirements and commitments necessary to serve on the Board of Directors of the American



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Cutting Horse Association; which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Be a member of the American Cutting Horse Association for a period of time to be set by the Board.
2. Be at least 21 years of age.
3. Agree to attend Directors' meetings as required.
4. Must not have a felony conviction of record. Any member in good standing who meets the requirements above and is willing to make the commitment necessary to serve on the Board of Directors if elected, shall so indicate on the Director Consent Form and return it to the Association within thirty (30) days after publication of such form.

### **Article XI Executive Board**

Section 1. There shall be an Executive Board composed of the President, the Vice President and six or more other members all elected by the Board of Directors from among those Directors elected by the members of the American Cutting Horse Association. Members of the Executive Board shall serve one year terms. During his or her term of service, any member of the Executive Board who misses two consecutive meetings of the Executive Board shall be immediately terminated as a member of that Board. In no event may a person be elected to serve as a member of the Executive Board for more than two consecutive one year terms.

Section 2. The Executive Board shall manage the affairs of the American Cutting Horse Association and all powers of the Board of Directors are vested in the Executive Board except the power to amend these Bylaws and except as otherwise limited by the Board of Directors. At all times, the Executive Board shall be subject to the direction of the Board of Directors and the authority of the Executive Board may be limited by the Board of Directors as it deems best.

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- Section 3. The Executive Board may hold meetings at any time and place and for any purpose pertaining to the welfare of the American Cutting Horse Association, which meetings may be called by the President or majority of the members of the Executive Board acting together. The call of said meeting must be by written notice to all members of the Executive Board at least ten days prior to said meeting. Notice of any meeting of the Executive Board at which a quorum is present may be waived by a simple majority of such quorums. Copies of the minutes of all meetings of the Executive Board shall be sent to all members of the Executive Board and Board of Directors.
- Section 4. A quorum at any meeting of the Executive Board shall consist of not less than a majority of the members thereof and a simple majority of such quorums shall decide any questions that may come before the meeting. Voting at meetings of the Executive Board must be in person, and voting by proxy shall not be allowed.
- Section 5. In the event there is a vacancy on the Executive Board caused by death, resignation, disqualification, or any other cause, the Board of Directors at its next regular meeting shall elect from those Directors elected by the members of the American Cutting Horse Association a member of the Board of Directors to fill the unexpired term of any such member of the Executive Board.
- Section 6. The Executive Board shall report in writing to the Board of Directors on the activities, programs, and decisions of the Executive Committee at each regular meeting of the Board of Directors, and as otherwise requested by the Board of Directors.

### **Article XII Officers**

- Section 1. The “elective” officers of this Association shall be a President and one or more Vice Presidents, and other officers deemed necessary by the Board. The President shall be elected annually by a majority of the votes cast by the members of the association. The President may name his

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Vice President subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

- Section 2. Each “elective” officer shall take office immediately and shall serve for a term of one year and until his successor is duly elected and qualified. Elective officers may not succeed themselves in the same office more than three (3) times (a total of three one-year terms).
- Section 3. Vacancies in any office may be filled for the balance of the term thereof by a majority vote of the directors at any regular or special meeting.
- Section 4. President:  
The President shall be the principal elective officer of the organization, shall preside at the meetings of the Association and of the Board of Directors and of the Executive Committee, and shall be member ex-officio with right to vote on all committees except the nominating committee. He shall also, at such times as he deems proper, communicate to the Association or to the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee such matters and make such suggestions as may in his opinion promote the welfare and increase the usefulness of the Association, and shall perform such other duties as are necessarily incidental to the office of President or as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors.
- Section 5. Vice President:  
The Vice President may, in the order of his designation by the President, be delegated by the President to perform his duties, in the event of his temporary disability or absence from meetings, and shall have such other duties as the President or the Board may assign.
- Section 6. Treasurer:  
The Treasurer will be appointed by the President and approved by the Board of Directors.
- Section 7. Secretary:  
The Secretary will be appointed by the President and approved by the Board. The office of Secretary and Treasurer may be held by one person. Appointed officers

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are not members of the Board and do not have voting privileges.

### **Article XIII Committees**

Section 1. The President, subject to approval of the Board of Directors, shall annually appoint such standing, special or subcommittees as may be required by the Bylaws or as he may find necessary. These committees are to be working committees and given assigned duties. Progress reports of accomplishments must be given at each meeting of the Board of Directors monthly. (The first sentence is included in the Bylaws. The remainder of Section 1 IS NOT included in the Bylaws, and merely comprises a description of the various committees.

- a. **Budget and Finance Committee**  
Work with the ACHA Secretary and Treasurer to account for the financial status of ACHA and account for accurate records of income and expenses. Provide a monthly report of Profit/Loss and a detailed ledger of income and expenses to be reviewed by the Board of Directors monthly. This committee shall work with the Awards Committee, ACHA Weekend and Championship Show Committee, Youth Committee, and the Long Range Planning Committee to assure sound financial planning and operation.
- b. **Rules Committee**  
Review the rule book's current status annually. Recommend rule changes in a timely manner. Submit proposed rule changes to the Board of Directors for approval. ....
- c. **Non Pro Committee**

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- Hear complaints filed in regard to Non Pro rule violations. Make recommendations to the President and Board of Directors. .  
Conduct hearings before the Board, if requested. Give guidance in following all Non Pro rules. Make recommendations for any new rule changes for this committee.
- d. Trainers Committee  
Consult with trainers as to any problems or recommendations they may have. Bring any issues to the Board of Directors. Solicit assistance from trainers with cattle changes, cattle settling or turnback help at shows.
  - e. Judges Committee  
Maintain the list of approved judges. Follow guidelines to control, monitor, advise, or counsel judges. Recommendations are brought to the Board of Directors if a judge is to be terminated. Provide a list of recommended judges for use at the ACHA Weekend and the Championship Show. Bring this list to the Board of Directors for approval. Use a disinterested party to call the list in order of the draw to acquire the number of judges needed for each show. Record whether there is no answer, if the offer is declined, or the offer is accepted.
  - f. Youth Committee  
Committee sponsors will assist the youth in their meetings, activities, finding sponsors, tracking scholarships, awards and financial matters. Obtain and manage the stallion auction and other fund raisers. Report to the Board on accomplishments in a timely manner.
  - g. Long Range Planning Committee  
Develop an outline of monthly activities to be

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- accomplished. Report the activities to the Board so that projects can be planned and started with sufficient time for success. Provide a long range plan for the next year to the Board.
- h. Sponsorship and Marketing Committee  
Work with the Budget and Finance Committee, ACHA Weekend and Championship Show Committees to determine the amount of money available for the kind of awards needed. Compile a list of possible sponsors to contact and delegate duties to board members and the membership. Give progress reports to the Board monthly.
  - i. ACHA Weekend and Championship Show Committees:  
Both committees will plan out the time, place, events, cattle, cattle workers, hay, video persons, secretaries, equipment, awards, and other activities at least six months in advance of the event. Work with other committees to plan. Delegate duties to Board members and the membership. Give a monthly progress report to the Board.
  - j. Awards Committee:  
Select and order awards / prizes for ACHA Produced shows, subject to approval by the Board.

### Section 2. Nominating Committee:

During the month of September each year, or at least ninety (90) days before the annual meeting, the Board of Directors shall appoint a Nominating Committee of five (5) persons to nominate candidates for the Board of Directors. The committee shall notify the Secretary, in writing, at least sixty (60) days before the date of the annual meeting, of the names of the candidates it proposes, and the Secretary shall

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mail a copy thereof to the last recorded address of each member at least forty-five (45) days before the annual meeting. Mail ballots will be sent to the membership. Each member in good standing shall vote for candidates of his choice.

Section 3. A Resolution Committee may be elected by the Board of Directors at the time such a committee is deemed necessary.

### **Article XIV Seal**

The American Cutting Horse Association may have a seal of such design as the Board of Directors may adopt.

### **Article XV Indemnification**

The Association shall indemnify any or all of the directors or officers, or former directors or officers in accordance with Article 1396-2-22A of the Texas Nonprofit Corporation Act as it now exists or hereafter is amended.

### **Article XVI Dissolution**

The Association shall use its funds only to accomplish the objectives and purposes specified in these Bylaws, and no part of said funds shall inure, or be distributed, to the members of the Association. On the dissolution of the Association any funds remaining shall be distributed to one or more regularly organized and qualified charitable, educational, scientific, or philanthropic organizations to be selected by the Board of Directors.

### **Article XVII Amendments**

Upon proposal by the Board, these Bylaws may be amended, repealed, or altered in whole or in part, (as) by approval of the members through a mail vote in accordance with the provisions of Article XIII. Ballot must be sent to members at least 30 days prior to polls closing. Approval will be determined by those ballots cast as outlined in Article XIII.

### **Summary of ACHA Awards**

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### **ANNUAL AWARDS**

At the end of each point year, the American Cutting Horse Association will recognize and honor outstanding horses and riders in each of the ten ACHA approved classes.

<b>Number of Horses</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>
1 or 2 Horses	Points	0					
3 Horses		3	2	1			
4 Horses		4	3	2	1		
5 Horses		5	4	3	2	1	
6 Horses		6	5	4	3	2	1

### **ACHA Point Year:**

The ACHA point year runs from *January 1 though December 31*.

Annual awards will be based on the current point year. Once a horse's or rider's class eligibility is determined as of the beginning of a point year, that horse or rider is eligible to show in that class the remainder of the point year. This eligibility remains in effect throughout the point year regardless of the amount earned during the point year. The Limited Aged Event point year shall be January 1 to December 31, to coincide with the calendar year of the horse's aged event eligibility.

### **ACHA Youth Scholarship Award:**

Each year during the American Championships Finals, one or more Youth Scholarships are awarded by the ACHA to recognize and encourage our youth to further their education. Upon request, ACHA youth members may obtain a Youth Scholarship Application from the ACHA office. The application must be received by the ACHA office on or before July 1 of each calendar year. The ACHA Youth Scholarship Committee shall review the nominations received from the ACHA Youth members. The Committee will then recommend to the Board of Directors the award of one or more ACHA Youth Scholarships and the dollar amount for each award. The money awarded must be applied for within five (5) years' receipt of the award or the amount will be returned to the scholarship fund.



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Award: Scholarship(s) will be presented at the American Championships.

### **ACHA Youth Shoot-out:**

The ACHA junior youth and the senior youth will be eligible to compete in a one go-round shoot-out to be held during the American Championships. Youth class rules will apply. Each rider must compete on a horse which the rider has shown at least once in the youth class during the qualifying year. Each rider will be allotted two and one-half (2 ½) minutes to work, and each run will receive a score. The rider with the highest total points in the go-round will be the ACHA Youth Shoot-Out Champion in each division. *In the event of a tie for the winning score, there will be a work off to determine the winner.* ACHA Youth Shoot-Out Champions will not be eligible to compete in the subsequent year's shoot-out. At the beginning of each ride year, qualifications for the youth shootout will be posted on the ACHA website.

Award: ACHA Junior Youth Shoot-out Champion Saddle and ACHA Senior Youth Shoot-out Champion Saddle.

### **ACHA Most Improved Youth:**

Each year during the American Championships a meeting of the ACHA Youth members will be held. Those in attendance will nominate eligible youth and cast one (1) vote by written ballot for the ACHA Most Improved Youth. The youth receiving the most votes will receive the award during the American Championships Awards Party. Youth eligible to be nominated include current ACHA members who have competed in the Youth class during the current point year and have shown cutting horses for a period of not more than two (2) ACHA point years.

Award: Buckle presented at the American Championships

### **ACHA Rookie of the Year:**

The Rookie of the Year award will be presented to the Novice Rider with the most total combined *points* won in the \$1000 Novice Rider and the \$2,500 Novice Rider classes during an ACHA point year. The total

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combined *points* won in the \$1000 Novice Rider and the \$2,500 Novice Rider classes at ACHA approved contests will be used to determine the rider to be honored as the ACHA Rookie of the Year. To be eligible for the Rookie of the Year award, a rider must be eligible for the \$1000 Novice Rider class, having total lifetime earnings of \$1000 or less as determined by the combined records of *the ACHA and the NCHA*, including limited age contest winnings, on the first day of the current ACHA point year. Contestants may ride any horse in the \$1000 and \$2,500 Novice Rider classes. Award: ACHA Official Trophy presented at the American Championships.

### **ACHA High Point Horse of the Year:**

The Horse of the Year award will be presented to the horse that has accumulated the most *points* each ACHA point year. *Points* from all ACHA approved week-end Classes and Aged Events shall be included. Award: ACHA Official Trophy presented at the American Championships.

### **ACHA High Point Open Rider of the Year:**

The High Point Open Rider of the Year will be presented to the open rider that has accumulated the most points each ACHA point year. Points from all ACHA approved weekend open, \$15,000 Limit, \$3,000 Novice classes and Open Aged Event classes shall be included.

Award: ACHA Official Trophy presented at the American Championships.

### **ACHA High Point Non Pro Rider of the Year:**

The High Point Non Pro Rider of the Year will be presented to the non pro rider that has accumulated the most points each ACHA point year. Points from all ACHA approved weekend non pro, \$15,000 novice horse/non pro, \$50,000 non pro, \$20,000 non pro and non pro aged event classes shall be included.

Award: ACHA Official Trophy presented at the American Championships.

### **American Championships Affiliate Shoot-out:**

Each ACHA affiliate in good standing is eligible to nominate one ACHA member of the affiliate who is eligible for the \$1000 Novice Rider class *and one member of the affiliate who is eligible for the \$2,500 Novice*

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Rider class to compete in a one go-round Shoot-out to be held during the American Championships. A rider may represent only one affiliate and may only ride one time in the Shoot-out. Each rider will be allotted two and one-half (2 ½) minutes to work, but if a major penalty occurs, (three (3) points or more), the rider will be whistled out immediately by the judge(s). The rider with the highest total points in the go-round will be the American Championships Affiliate Shoot-out Champion. *In the event all riders are charged with a major penalty the rider with the most working time before the major penalty occurred will be the Champion.* Award: ACHA Official Trophy presented at the American Championships.

### **ACHA American Champion Standings:**

ACHA American Champion standings for each class are determined by the total points or earnings from all ACHA approved contests:

- Open
- Non Professional
- \$50,000 Non Professional
- \$15,000 Limit Horse*
- \$20,000 Non Professional
- \$15,000 Novice Horse/Non Professional
- \$3,000 Novice Horse
- \$2,500 Novice Rider
- \$1000 Novice Rider

ACHA American Champion Youth standings are determined by the total points earned in all ACHA approved Youth classes.

### **ACHA American Champion Awards:**

At the end of each point year, the ACHA will recognize and honor the following in each of the approved weekend classes:

- American Champion Rider and/or Horse
- Reserve American Champion Rider and/or Horse
- Top Ten Finalists

Award: To be determined by the Board of Directors and presented at the American Championships

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**In Limited Aged Event Classes**, the horse must show four times in one affiliate or eight times in any affiliate to be eligible for year-end awards.

Awards: To be determined by the Board of Directors and presented at the American Championships

In all classes, champions will be determined by the most number of points earned in that class. All ties will be broken by the most number of times shown in that class. If still tied, ties will then be broken by the Rider and/or horse earning the most money in that class.

**ACHA American Championships Awards:** At the conclusion of the American Championships, the ACHA will recognize and honor the following in each of the ten approved ACHA classes:

American Championships Champion

American Championships Reserve Champion

American Championships Finalists

Awards: To be determined by the Board of Directors and presented at the American Championships

### **LIFETIME AWARDS**

#### **ACHA Horse Certificate of Merit:**

Monies won in all ACHA approved classes as well as in the American Championships count toward this award. A total of \$1,000 is required.

#### **ACHA Rider Certificate of Merit:**

Monies won in all ACHA approved classes as well as in the American Championships count toward this award. A total of \$1,000 is required.

#### **ACHA Emerald Certificate:**

Horse: Required lifetime earnings of \$5,000 in ACHA approved classes.

Rider: Required lifetime earnings of \$5,000 in ACHA approved classes.

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### **ACHA Sapphire Certificate:**

Horse: Required lifetime earnings of \$10,000 in ACHA approved classes.

Rider: Required lifetime earnings of \$10,000 in ACHA approved classes.

### **ACHA Ruby Certificate:**

Horse: Required lifetime earnings of \$25,000 in ACHA approved classes.

Rider: Required lifetime earnings of \$25,000 in ACHA approved classes.

**ACHA Diamond Certificate:** Horse: Required lifetime earnings of \$50,000 in ACHA approved classes.

Rider: Required lifetime earnings of \$50,000 in ACHA approved classes.

### **ACHA Hall of Fame Award:**

**Horse:** Required lifetime earnings of \$75,000 in ACHA approved classes.

**Open Rider:** Required lifetime earnings of \$75,000 in ACHA approved classes.

**Non Pro Rider:** Required lifetime earnings of \$50,000 in ACHA approved classes.

**Non Pro Roll of Honor Plaque:** Required earnings of \$25,000 in ACHA approved classes.

**Members: The ACHA Member's Hall of Fame** was established to recognize those individuals who have made outstanding and unusual contributions to the ACHA's basic purpose, which is the public exhibition and promotion of the cutting horse. Individuals honored have exhibited a high moral character, good sportsmanship, fairness, and an

## *American Cutting Horse Association*

exemplary contribution of time, effort and interest in the ACHA and its basic endeavors.

The President shall appoint five (5) members to serve on the Members Hall of Fame Committee. The Committee shall review all nominations and submit a recommendation to the Board of Directors. Inductions will be limited to a maximum of two (2) inductees per year and nominees will be eligible for consideration for five (5) years after receipt of their nomination.

Award: Trophy presented at the American Championships

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\*Denotes new rule

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### **ACHA Membership**

Any individual, firm, partnership, limited partnership, corporation, limited liability company or organization of good character and reputation interested in cutting horses may apply for membership in the ACHA. You are welcome as a member even if you do not own or ride a cutting horse. Life Memberships are available at \$500.00. Each membership will be entitled to one vote. Individual membership includes the holder, his or her spouse, and minor children under 21 years of age in the same household. Memberships for a firm, partnership, corporation, or organization will extend only to those persons living in the same household as the voting delegate for that membership.

### **Membership Benefits Include:**

1. The right to participate in ACHA contests and events.

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2. Access to ACHA rider and horse earnings and standings records.
3. ACHA Rule Book.
4. The right to vote in ACHA elections.

**Please complete the following page and return  
with your check to:**

**American Cutting Horse Association**

**P O Box 2443**

**Brenham, Texas 77834**

**Phone 979-836-3370 FAX 979-251-9987**

**Website: [www.americancuttinghorse.com](http://www.americancuttinghorse.com)**

**Email Address: [achacutting@yahoo.com](mailto:achacutting@yahoo.com)**

### **ACHA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

I hereby apply for membership in the American Cutting Horse Association and enclose \$50.00 as my annual membership dues for the \_\_\_\_\_ point year or \$500.00 for a lifetime membership. With this application, I acknowledge that all members of my household shall comply with all Standing Rules and Bylaws of the ACHA. All members of my household hereby release, discharge, and hold harmless the ACHA, its affiliates, and authorized agents from any claim of personal injury, liability, loss or injury to livestock, or accidents arising out of or related to this membership.

**Primary member:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

*American Cutting Horse Association*

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security No: \_\_\_\_\_

Check One:

Pro \_\_\_\_\_ Non Professional \_\_\_\_\_

Youth \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date (youth only) \_\_\_\_\_

Additional members in the same household:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security No: \_\_\_\_\_

Check One:

Pro \_\_\_\_\_ Non Professional \_\_\_\_\_

Youth \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date (youth only) \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security No: \_\_\_\_\_

Check One:

Pro \_\_\_\_\_ Non Professional \_\_\_\_\_

Youth \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date (youth only) \_\_\_\_\_